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Tuesday, 17 April 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Beckett	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Jenie
	Italy	Mr. Craxi
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Kubiš
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United States of America	Mr. Wolff

Agenda

Letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/186)

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07-30908 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/186)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, the Sudan, Switzerland, Tuvalu, Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw attention to document S/2007/186, which contains a letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I should also like to draw attention to document S/2007/203, which contains a letter dated 12 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba, and document S/2007/211, which contains a letter dated 16 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan.

I should now like to make some brief introductory remarks in my national capacity, before giving the floor to other Council members.

I welcome this debate. There have been some questions as to whether this is the right place to be having this discussion, so let me set out why I believe that it is.

Our responsibility in the Council is to maintain international peace and security, including the prevention of conflict. An unstable climate will exacerbate some of the core drivers of conflict, such as migratory pressures and competition for resources. The recent Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change speaks of potential economic disruption on the scale of the two world wars and of the great depression. That alone will inevitably have an impact on the security of all of us — developed and developing countries alike.

So today is about the world recognizing that there is a security imperative, as well as economic, developmental and environmental ones, for tackling climate change and for our beginning to build a shared understanding of the relationship between energy, climate and security.

We are not, in this debate, seeking to preempt the authority of those institutions and processes where action is being decided — the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, the United Nations agencies, and, of course, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Having been the United Kingdom's lead negotiator for five years in that body, I am the last person who would wish to undermine its work, or that of any other. But the decisions that we come to and the actions that we take in all of those forums will be better, stronger and more effective if they are informed by the fullest possible understanding of all of the implications of climate change. So I very much look forward to this unprecedented debate.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes

in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing in the Chamber and to deliver a condensed version when speaking. The list of those who wish to speak having been distributed, I think that colleagues will understand why that discipline would be helpful.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Ján Kubiš, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Kubiš (Slovakia): We welcome the fact that the Security Council has reached a point at which it is openly recognizing the significant security risks that the wider implications of climate change will pose in future. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the United Kingdom to introduce this theme into our agenda.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement that will be delivered later by the Permanent Representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union. That is why I will limit my statement to some specific comments.

The complexity of the climate system makes it difficult to predict, but there is now an effective consensus among the world's leading scientists that there is a discernible human influence on climate and a link between the concentration of carbon dioxide and the increase in temperature. This is thus a good time to consider the policy dimensions of climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has already finalized a new report that assesses the current and future impact of global warming and explores opportunities for proactively adapting to them. The report concludes that the world's rivers, lakes, wildlife, glaciers, permafrost, coastal zones, disease carriers and many other elements of the natural and physical environment are already responding to the effects of mankind's greenhouse gas emissions.

The security implications of further climate change entails, inter alia, the possible humanitarian crises resulting from unusual weather changes, including drought; energy shortages; possible migration pressures; and overall societal stress in those States that are heavily affected by climate change.

It is important to underline the scale of the implications for the developing world. It is not difficult to imagine the security, stability and health problems that will arise in a world in which there is increasing pressure on water availability; where there is a major loss of arable land and consequent food shortages; and in which there are large-scale displacements of populations as a result of flooding and other climate change effects. And those factors will compound each other. The poorest countries in the world will suffer most from severe weather events, longer and hotter droughts and rising oceans. Over the coming decades, the Arctic, sub-Saharan Africa, small island States, low-lying coasts, natural ecosystems and water resources and agricultural production in certain regions will be at particular risk.

Such threats and growing social stress can be properly addressed only through international agreements and their consistent implementation. Only concerted action by Governments around the world can successfully address the long-term challenge of fighting climate change and stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, while preventing severe global economic and political strains and sustaining economic growth.

The 1987 Montreal Protocol, addressing the challenge posed by the hole in the ozone layer, has shown how quickly a global environmental problem can be reversed once targets are agreed. Slovakia is, in that respect, strongly committed to working with the world's industrial countries and emerging economies to reach emissions reduction targets after the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ends in 2012.

We believe that emissions trading is one of the most cost- effective ways of reducing carbon emissions. The emissions trading scheme in Europe is of great importance to overall targets in that respect, and the establishment of the carbon-trading market is a substantial achievement and will change the way thousands of businesses think about their energy use. A world-wide network of such schemes could push its positive effects even further.

Other options exist for providing a stimulus for the development and more extensive use of renewable energy. We have to continue to support investments in the innovation of new low-carbon technologies, and there are also ways to consider nuclear energy as a cleaner choice if we are to meet our carbon targets.

Those are some of the reasons why Slovakia has approved the respective decisions taken at last March's European Council meeting on energy, which established binding European Union commitments coping with carbon dioxide emissions and on greater use of renewable sources of energy.

Security is only one of the factors to be considered under the overall agenda for climate change, but in this case it is well in line with Security Council resolution 1625 (2005) on comprehensively addressing the root causes of armed conflict and political and social crises, as highly stressed societies tend to be more violent societies. There is, in our opinion, an indisputable role for the Security Council in conflict prevention and in contributing to other United Nations organs and agencies, where appropriate. Notwithstanding what the other forums, including the General Assembly, already deal with, the Security Council is well positioned to incorporate that new dimension of threat perception into its considerations and ad hoc discussions, while remaining within its mandate.

My delegation would like to suggest that the Security Council request the Secretariat to include in its future regular reports, under mandates provided by the Council and where reasonable and substantiated, an additional note on possible threats in the framework of the subject of such a report that would be considered to be a security implication of climate change.

Time will show how we can deal with the climate change issue within the Security Council and where a consensus of the international community will be reached to address climate-related factors of instability and security risks.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Vittorio Craxi, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy.

Mr. Craxi (Italy) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to begin by thanking the United Kingdom, in its capacity as President of the Security Council, for having organized today's debate, and to thank its Foreign Secretary, whose presence here attests to the importance of the issue under discussion.

Italy associates itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union.

Climate change is an unequivocal global threat. Today's debate helps to raise awareness of the dangers associated with environmental problems and to provide food for thought on the actions to take in the competent forums, in the specialized agencies, and among the United Nations membership.

A few weeks ago, the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reiterated the extreme seriousness of global warming and its connection to human activities. Various studies, including the *Stern Review* and the report promoted by the United Nations Foundation, highlight the serious threat that climate change poses to peace and security, such as fomenting or aggravating conflicts. Climate change has an impact not only on the environment, the economy and human health, but also on stability and security, especially when they intersect with realities already characterized by problems of an ethnic, cultural, political or economic character.

In the long term, disputes over borders or over the division of maritime zones might be a consequence of territorial changes caused by a rise in sea levels. There is a further great risk of an exodus of entire populations, unleashing serious socio-economic instability and potential humanitarian crises. It is estimated that, by 2010, environmental degradation linked to climate change may drive population shifts involving upwards of 50 million people in developing countries — bona fide climate refugees. Particularly vulnerable to climate change are areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South-East Asia and, in particular, the small islands, which, for that matter, generate fewer greenhouse gases than other States.

We must recognize that there is no trade-off between the fight against poverty and safeguarding the environment. Climate change and the risks associated with spiralling conflicts and mass exoduses contribute to an increase in both poverty and instability. The increase in climate-change-related poverty increases, in turn, pockets of discontent and ultimately — as the *Stern Review* underlines — recruitment by rebel or terrorist groups.

We should not neglect the relationship between climate change and energy consumption, which can also be reflected in crisis situations between States. Our development model and our very lifestyle require huge amounts of energy. That translates into an increasingly fraught search for large quantities of fossil

fuels, with consequences in terms of geopolitical tensions and environmental unsustainability.

To achieve a governance of the environment and energy dynamic that will provide access to potable water and electricity to all citizens of the world, the international community needs to endorse the concept that energy security and environmental sustainability are indivisible. We need to enact common strategies to address the risks related to climate change and our current model of economic growth.

In the context of United Nations reform, we should strive to strengthen multilateral governance that helps to counter and manage such phenomena. In that regard, we welcome the reference to that issue in the Secretary-General's recent report on the recommendations of the Panel on system-wide coherence. In that context, the Italian Government believes firmly in the importance of creating a United Nations environmental organization.

The European Union recently made a commitment to unilaterally reducing greenhouse emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2020 and by 30 per cent in the event that a post-Kyoto international agreement is reached.

In the framework of the Group of Eight (G-8), Italy plays a proactive role on environmental questions and has launched a partnership to promote the development of bioenergy. We look forward to the outcome of the G-8 Summit.

In the near future, the Italian Government will organize a national conference on climate in order to raise public awareness and to foster the adoption of a long-term strategy to combat global warming. The debate will also deal with relationship between security and climate change.

In conclusion, we need to act with determination and act quickly with regard both to forms of adaptation and to mitigation. Delayed action could increase costs and could even make global warming irreversible, with all the related disastrous effects that would derive therefrom in terms of failure to prevent conflicts. The Italian Government would like to renew here in the Security Council its support for all initiatives that seek a consensus to draft a new, universally endorsed international agreement to fight climate change. In this spirit, we are prepared to work with our European partners to achieve this goal.

Mr. Verbeke (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for having taken the initiative of organizing today in the Security Council a debate on the threats that can be posed by climate change to stability and security. The meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that has just completed its work in Brussels reaffirms the scope of this phenomenon and its potential consequences.

Designing and implementing an effective, sustainable response to the threats resulting from climate change requires a threefold effort on our part. First of all, we need to become aware of and recognize together the dilemma caused by two legitimate concerns — on the one hand, the need to promote economic growth and to combat poverty, because serious inequalities themselves are sources of tension and conflict, and, on the other hand, the need to reduce fossil fuel consumption because by increasing the impact of climate change such consumption could exacerbate a series of already existing factors giving rise to tensions.

It is increasingly clear that climate change exacerbates a multitude of non-military threats. Examples are already well known — increasing competition for access to water and arable land; the increase in infectious diseases; natural disasters, such as drought and flooding; the loss of agricultural land; drop in agricultural production; increase in poverty; the increase in social inequalities; displacement of populations to cities; and acceleration of domestic and international migratory flows.

Moreover, facts tend to show that the negative effects of climate change are felt primarily by regions and populations that are most vulnerable. According to projections, this trend will continue. The prime targets are also the least equipped to respond to this negative impact and to adapt to it.

Additional pressures caused by climate change increase the risk of having fragile States lapse or relapse into civil war and chaos.

Secondly, we must abandon the idea that the future will look like the past. Our conventional security policies are all still often based on obsolete threat assessments and are more geared to managing crises than to preventing them. Security policies exclusively based on national sovereignty appear less and less appropriate in this context. To resolve the climate-

energy-security dilemma means that we need to rethink thoroughly the scope of our policies using a broader concept of security. By establishing greater trust amongst us, we will be able to create more interdependence among our countries.

The third aspect is to design and collectively implement systemic innovative responses to complex challenges caused by climate changes. As this preliminary stage, Belgium would like to make the following points.

First, climate change must gradually become one of the factors to be taken into consideration in discussing conflict prevention. It would be useful to have a more in-depth analysis, in particular on the basis of the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the security implications of climate change, accompanied by policy recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to respond to them.

Secondly, the Secretary-General must be encouraged to bring to bear his institutional authority to catalyze political will for concerted, decisive action in the face of climate challenged, particularly with regard to the security dimension.

Thirdly, the United Nations should, furthermore, intensify its early warning efforts as well as its efforts to prevent and manage crises caused by climate change in the most vulnerable areas. It could assist countries concerned to elaborate risk reduction strategies.

Fourthly, the strengthening of capacity to prevent and manage climate risks should also be envisaged at national and regional levels.

Fifthly, environmental cooperation should be used and sustained more as an instrument for conflict prevention and as a confidence-building measure. It is particularly important in the case of river basins shared among several States where the water flow is threatened because of climate change.

Finally, States have everything to gain from a close dialogue with civil society, which, today, is a crucial driving force for global awareness of climate challenges in all of their dimensions.

The picture drawn by our experts is definitely a disquieting one, even an alarming one. Nevertheless, there is still a window of opportunity open, even though there is not much time.

Belgium is determined to actively contribute to finding and implementing collectively political and technical solutions for the consequences of climate change, with particular attention to the regions that are most vulnerable.

Only a leap forward in political courage and a change of mindset that invites us to replace our short-term reasoning with long-term reasoning will allow us to live up to our responsibilities as custodians of collective security.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): Permit me, at the outset, to extend our warm greetings to the Ministers who have joined us today, and commend the delegation of the United Kingdom for holding this debate on Energy, Security and Climate, and especially for drawing up a concept paper with pertinent questions that have forcefully brought home to us the ways in which the socio-economic pressures associated with climate change could threaten international peace and security.

It is our fervent hope, therefore, that the repeated alarm about the grave threats posed by climate change, especially to regions that are already struggling with chronic instability, will lead to action that is timely, concerted and sustainable, in order to alleviate the negative consequences of the phenomenon. Let me add, Madam President, that my delegation is aware of the rather heated debate that the problem of climate change tends to generate both at the national and international levels, but we are encouraged nonetheless by the existing consensus worldwide on the need to act expeditiously.

In this respect, we are happy to note that the African Union is already collaborating with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other leading agencies, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, as well as non-governmental organizations like the International Council for Science.

One important outcome of these joint efforts is the development of a strategy for mainstreaming climate information within the Millennium Development Goals through the implementation of the Global Climate Observing System in Africa. The eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in January 2007 acknowledged the supportive efforts of

our development partners by formally endorsing an action plan entitled "Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa".

Since energy, security and climate change are three closely interrelated issues, we are faced with real dilemmas that call into question some of the fundamental assumptions on which our strategies for achieving durable peace and stability are based. If, indeed, the key to lasting peace and security is sustainable development, as has been clearly identified in the Millennium Development Goals, then for us in Africa the fundamental question that arises immediately is how to alleviate the grave threats posed by climate change without compromising the target of an eight per cent growth rate necessary for reducing poverty to tolerable levels within the next decade.

For years, developing countries have been striving to end their dependence on the export of raw materials to finance their development, a strategy that has failed them woefully and, in the worst cases, resulted in bloody conflicts. Naturally, developing countries regard industrialization as the path to economic prosperity and lasting peace and stability. That cannot happen unless they have access to an efficient and reliable supply of energy for processing and adding value to their agricultural and mineral produce. In addition, they must be assured of market access within a transparent regulatory regime.

In relation to the foregoing, what sort of compromises will developing countries be obliged to make in line with the emergent international consensus on energy, security and climate change? Would they be politically sustainable within States that are already unstable and fragile? We are equally obliged to ask whether, in the light of the unfinished business of the Kyoto Protocol, the strategy of enunciating a sound energy policy in order to alleviate the negative consequences of climate change will entail a radical change of direction in the partnership between developed and developing countries.

With ever-growing economic development in various countries, global demand for energy is rising rapidly. Global energy consumption is estimated to grow by 70 per cent by 2030. Consequently, the acquisition and protection of energy supplies is now of strategic importance in national policies. The Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, which groups oil-rich countries in West and Central Africa, has been hard at work ensuring that potential maritime border disputes are peacefully resolved, in line with the guidelines of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This peaceful approach was exemplified by the manner in which Nigeria's dispute with Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula was resolved in favour of Cameroon in a deal brokered by the United Nations.

Several recent studies, including one by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have identified the threats that may arise from the expected sharp increases in the temperature of vast areas of the African continent. As far as agricultural production is concerned, worsening drought and rampant flooding are two sides of the same coin, leading to food shortages, spread of infectious diseases, as well as widespread displacement of persons and the destabilization of whole societies. These developments will inevitably bring another dimension to the cross-border problems that are of interest to the Security Council.

Decades ago, the steady encroachment southwards of the Sahara Desert alarmed development experts and led the Organization for African Unity to adopt various initiatives aimed at halting the desertification of the Sahel belt. Needless to say, this progress has been minimal, and the problem has even worsened. There are credible reports that the nomadic Fulani cattle herdsmen in Ghana are now arming themselves with sophisticated assault rifles to confront local farming communities that have become increasingly impatient with the devastation that roaming cattle cause to their crops.

It is important that the Security Council, from time to time, evaluates the risks inherent in these phenomena because of their destabilizing effects on society. We cannot gloss over the deadly competition over resources that are generating tensions in many parts of Africa. Ultimately, it makes no difference whether the risk of conflict stems from the scramble over dwindling water resources or from the shrinking of productive land owing to the changing rainfall pattern or from the inequitable distribution of oil revenues coupled with severe environmental damage affecting communities.

Mr. Ikouebe (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Madam President, my delegation would like to thank you for having taken the initiative to organize this debate on a

question that constitutes one of the major challenges that humanity will be facing for some time to come.

We share the concerns expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 with regard to the respective domains of the various organs of the United Nations when it comes to dealing with issues of sustainable development. However, over and above the issue of the competence of the various bodies, we must recognize the seriousness of what is at stake — namely, the need for and the urgency of appropriate responses to a major risk to international peace and security.

The Security Council, therefore, is very well placed to help us become aware of this threat in the prevention of conflicts, which very often have deep and wide-ranging effects. Congo chairs the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, and we will very much benefit from this debate.

We share the call to act without delay launched by the United Nations Secretary-General on 6 April 2007. This call was issued to all Governments to encourage them to adopt major measures to reduce the most extreme consequences of climate change. The report published in Brussels on 6 April by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is unequivocal with regard to the consequences of climate change in various parts of the world and on different sectors of the world economy. It clearly indicates that the areas the most affected will be the Arctic, sub-Saharan Africa, small island developing States, the major Asian deltas, as well as coastal areas.

Even more worrying, the report states that it will be the poorest who will suffer the most, because they have the fewest resources to be able to adapt.

The twist of fate, therefore, will be that it will be the poor who will be paying for the excess consumption and carefree attitude of the rich.

Africa has become aware of this major risk, and it debated the question of climate change during the recent Summit of the African Union (AU) of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa last January. So, I think this tells us how important this debate is for a country such as Congo, which is already facing some negative factors of climate change, despite the ecological reservoir with which we are blessed. Certainly, this will not be the first time in the history of humankind that men and women will have to fight for land, water, food and living space; but, this time, it will be on a greater scale and with disastrous effects that will dwarf the invasions and raids of ancient times.

Here, the borderline between the responsibility of man with a pattern of consumption that is increasingly destructive and what we can qualify as a natural disaster will become increasingly blurred. It is, therefore, significant and useful that the main body of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of peace and security should galvanize universal awareness of the need for concrete action and should keep this matter on its agenda over time. We expect the Council to sound an alarm bell. However, the forum for consultation and the drawing up of norms and strategies is to be done elsewhere.

With regard to strategies, we have all the necessary instruments at our disposal, such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. The countries that are primarily responsible for pollution should therefore set an example by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

For their part, several countries of Central Africa — given their function as the world's second "lung", after the Amazon rainforest — have adopted a strategy based on an international partnership, with a view to promoting the sustainable management of the ecosystems and natural resources of the forests of the Congo Basin. That broad initiative already involves several international and multilateral partners; its goal is the participation of as many actors as possible. We hope that, immediately following today's debate, a greater commitment on the part of the international community will emerge with regard to this vital issue of climate change and its consequences and will be expressed at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Bali next December.

Finally, I should like to stress the urgent need for individual and collective action on the part of States and other bodies, because, as was pointed out by a representative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we may see

> "conflicts over water, the spread of diseases, and a big increase in worldwide migration unless adequate adaptation measures are adopted and integrated into long-term development planning."

The Security Council will therefore be making an important contribution if it can create the necessary awareness of the need for urgent action.

Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): Madam President, it gives me pleasure to participate in this important meeting dedicated to the discussion of one of the most important current topics on the United Nations agenda, namely the relationship between energy, security and the climate, which will no doubt be extensively debated during the high-level segment of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, scheduled to be held in New York from 9 to 11 May 2007. The State of Qatar will have the honour of chairing that session, and it is my pleasure to share with the Security Council our views on the subject being discussed in the Council today, as outlined in the United Kingdom concept paper on energy, security and climate change.

We wish to recall here that climate change has become an urgent and pressing reality, which leaves us with a sole option: international collective action aimed at alleviating its repercussions and dire consequences for our planet.

We believe that failure to adequately address the question of climate change could be attributed to the de-linking of the question of development from that of climate change. We believe that an optimal and effective solution to the problem of climate change can be found only through an integrated approach addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development. The issue of climate change is part and parcel of that of development, and the development process must begin in the developing countries on the basis of a firm understanding of the manner in which development takes place.

In that connection, we would like to recall two significant elements that were reiterated at the 1992 Rio Conference on climate change: first, those that are primarily responsible for climate change should bear the financial burden of repairing the damage; secondly, the development process must be neither sacrificed nor compromised because of climate change.

It is noteworthy, however, that, during negotiations on the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the topic of development was completely overlooked, which in turn led to the failure to effectively address the issue, in the light of the complete de-linkage of the question of climate change from that of development. A case in point is the inability so far to produce a single comprehensive report on the twin questions of climate change and sustainable development.

Like the majority of developing countries, we believe that the literature on the linkage between climate change and sustainable development reflects a fragmented, patchy and diffuse philosophy that has effectively relegated development to a lower rank on the list of the international community's priorities. We firmly believe that any successful solution to the climate problem must emerge as part of an integrated approach to sustainable development.

We must ask ourselves about the theoretical and practical lessons that can be drawn from integrating climate-change-mitigation efforts into the development process. What policies can we put in place with respect to sources of greenhouse gas emissions? In other words, what is the impact of population density, income level, energy and carbon concentrations? The answer to these and other questions may not be adequately given in this forum as they require in-depth, detailed study, which must precede the formulation of specific policies or recommendations.

We have carefully studied the discussion paper submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom. Given the differences in perspective, we would like to make the following comments.

We believe that the paper addresses the symptoms and the repercussions of the problem but not its causes. All the points raised in the paper involve issues affected by climate change, but the response of the international community has been piecemeal and ad hoc. We are convinced that the discussion of the subject of climate change must be extensive, integrated, comprehensive and all-inclusive, and that it must encompass all the dimensions of this problem, including those mentioned in the United Kingdom paper. Threats brought about by climate change do not loom over vulnerable States exclusively but are primarily threats to sustainable development. Drought, desertification, the drying out of river basins, migration, water resources and energy supplies are issues of concern to all and pose a threat to the entire world.

We note that the paper singled out fossil fuels as the principal cause of climate change and the concentration of greenhouse gases, while scientists attribute carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere

to destructive deforestation and desertification. Furthermore, the situation is compounded by the unsustainable exploitation and use of land, creeping urbanization, the impact of nuclear energy, natural disasters, conflicts, the lava and gases produced by volcanic eruptions, sandstorms and industrial pollution. We must not forget that fossil fuels were the single most important factor in the astounding industrial progress achieved in the developed countries. Those were the same States that pursued destructive policies of deforestation, urbanization and land use. Combating disease, unemployment and poverty require ambitious and adequately financed development programmes and must benefit from modern technologies.

In order to arrive at a common understanding so as to resolve the problem of climate change, we must not overlook the principle, agreed on at all United Nations summits and conferences, of the common and differentiated responsibilities of all States. Accordingly, rich, developed and industrialized countries are assigned responsibilities different from those of poor and developing countries.

Since we all run the risk of being submerged, we must work collectively to save ourselves from drowning. In this context, we recall Security Council resolution 1625 (2005), from which we draw the conclusion that the desired solutions to issues of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict development must be comprehensive and integrated. Now that we have identified the problem and are becoming increasingly aware of its repercussions, we must mobilize the political will necessary to address vulnerability in countries liable to suffer from instability, through promoting knowledge, facilitating the transfer of technology, putting in place adaptation and impact mitigation mechanisms and providing sufficient resources to rise to the challenges of climate change.

With regard to the responsibility of the Secretary-General to bring this matter to the attention of the Security Council, we note that in Article 99 the Charter limits that prerogative to matters which in the opinion of Secretary-General may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

Much has been spoken and written about threats emanating from climate change. The picture has become clearer now. The question cannot be addressed by debates limited exclusively to the Security Council. We need mechanisms capable of enforcing their own resolutions, provided that those mechanisms are of wider representation. In our view, the Security Council, because of imbalances in its power hierarchy, is not the optimal mechanism to address the question of climate change. The threats posed by climate change must be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and above all, the General Assembly. We believe that a more serious and comprehensive approach to all aspects of climate change could be initiated through a joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, the outcome of which should then be submitted to the General Assembly.

Mr. Wolff (United States of America): Climate change clearly presents serious challenges. Under the able presidency of the United Kingdom, in Gleneagles, two years ago, Group of Eight (G-8) leaders emphasized that energy security, climate change and sustainable development are fundamentally linked. In consultation with our developing country partners, G-8 leaders committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the global environment and enhance energy security in ways that promote human development.

To achieve those goals, the United States is pursuing a wide range of activities and programmes. For example, we are working with Brazil to advance biofuels. We facilitated an agreement with China to install the largest coal mine methane power facility in the world. Through the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, we are expanding investment and trade in cleaner energy technologies. We are leading global efforts for the commercial deployment of near-zero-emissions coal technology through $1.65 billion in tax credits. The United States Energy Policy Act authorizes $5 billion over five years in tax incentives to encourage private investments in energy efficiency and alternative renewable energy. We dedicate about $180 million a year to promote adaptation to climate variability and change and to other climate change priority areas in developing countries.

At home, we are on track to meet our goal of reducing our economy's greenhouse gas intensity by 18 per cent from 2002 to 2012. United States greenhouse gas emissions increased only 0.6 per cent between 2004 and 2005, compared with a 1 per cent increase over the 1990-2005 period. We have invested some $35 billion in climate-related science and

technology since 2001, including over $17 billion in energy technologies.

Internationally, climate and energy issues are being actively addressed through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other venues with appropriate mandates. The Bush Administration has pledged $500 million to the Global Environmental Facility over the next four years — and that is the largest contribution of any country — to help developing countries address these problems. Those efforts matter, including because a lack of energy security can exacerbate economic and political problems.

The most effective way to bolster security and stability is to increase the capacity of States to govern effectively. States that can govern effectively can better anticipate and manage change and the challenges that come with change. Successful development strategies must focus on education, rule of law, human freedom and economic opportunity. The international community joined together in recognizing that at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Well-governed countries grow and prosper. Economic growth provides the resources, in both developed and developing countries, to address energy and environmental challenges, including challenges associated with climate change.

The United States has a long history of extending a helping hand so that people can live in democratic societies with robust economies and strong and stable governance. We intend to continue that support, working with freedom-loving people everywhere to face the future constructively with confidence and determination.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): First, I wish to thank you, Madam President, personally and to congratulate the United Kingdom presidency on taking the initiative to plan this discussion on energy, security and climate.

We believe that climate change is among the principal threats to the future of humankind and to its environmental security. It is a basic threat, the first consequences of which are already affecting populations, in particular those of the most vulnerable countries. Its impact on international peace and security may take various forms, which are clearly set out in the very useful concept paper (S/2007/186, annex) prepared in preparation for today's meeting.

Therefore, we must act without delay. In Johannesburg in September 2002, President Jacques Chirac began his statement by stating, "The house is on fire but we are looking elsewhere". Five years later, there is definitely more awareness, but it has not yet been translated, as it must be, into concerted decisive action by the entire international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to minimize the damage linked to climate change.

As a matter of urgency, we must mobilize and find responses to the challenge in all its aspects. The Security Council is certainly not the number one forum for dealing with this subject. Nor, clearly, is it the only one. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the General Assembly clearly have a central role to play here. But, within its mandate, the Security Council cannot ignore the threats to international security caused by global warming. And I must say that institutional squabbling is inappropriate given what is at stake. Exclusivity must give way to the contribution of all participants in the struggle; everyone has a role to play.

All of the climate change threats are real threats. In the medium and the long term, they will affect security among nations. Today, no one would dare to challenge the reality of climate change. In its fourth report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reached the scientifically corroborated conclusion that there is 90 per cent certainty that global warming is the result of human activity. On 6 April, the same Panel concluded that this phenomenon could lead to increased numbers of extreme weather events, massive population movements resulting from sea-level rise, decreased agricultural production causing serious food crises and an increased threat of health risks because of changes in the functioning of ecosystems.

Those four major impacts are convincing evidence of the threat to peace posed by climate change. There is no question but that the depletion of resources could increase competition for access to food, energy and water. There is no doubt that the loss of arable land could lead to a race for territory. It is clear that natural disasters and rising water levels could increase the number of refugees and displaced persons and could result in uncontrollable migratory flows. The

more sudden these phenomena are, the more they will constitute factors for conflict.

No region is immune, but the impact of climate change will be greater where it is accompanied by preexisting factors of fragility, which it will make even worse. The most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa, already face underdevelopment, ethnic tension, major pandemics and unpredictable climatic conditions, and they could pay the highest price. It will be even harder for them to face these difficulties because they lack capacity and because State structures are too weak to respond fully to the needs of their populations.

The situation therefore requires decisive, collective and urgent action by the international community to mitigate climate change and limit its consequences to tolerable levels — which must never exceed the threshold of 2 centigrade degrees. As Nicholas Stern has indicated in his report on the economics of climate change, the cost of not acting infinitely outweighs the cost of taking action. That is why, in order to ensure the continuity of steps taken and the durability of the relevant instruments, it is essential to define by 2009 a regime for effectively combating climate change after 2012. Members are aware of the commitments in this sphere undertaken by the European Union in March. The Security Council is certainly not the place to speak at length about negotiations taking place elsewhere.

But it falls squarely within the Security Council's mandate to prevent conflict — the likelihood of which, as I have just stressed, is unfortunately very great. It is thus the Council's duty to play its part. Here, we must think about what could be done in terms of preventive diplomacy in liaison with the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General could focus his efforts on regions or areas where climatic threats can have direct implications for peace. Such an approach requires that the consequences of climate change be integrated into risk analyses prepared by the Secretariat.

The impact of climate change should also be taken into consideration by the Security Council. It must include elements related to the depletion of resources — which have been seen to be a major factor in conflicts, especially in Africa — in its contribution to efforts at conflict settlement.

Beyond the role of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, preventing conflicts requires the international community to mobilize all the mechanisms needed to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable management of their natural resources and to prepare for natural disasters. The United Nations can contribute by promoting the integration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, because it is clear that poverty, human health problems and environmental degradation can no longer be viewed as isolated threats. That is also why it is urgent to improve international environmental governance, towards which France has proposed the establishment of a United Nations environmental organization on the basis of the United Nations Environment Programme.

We must be aware that the international community cannot win the battle against climate change and its impact without putting into action the instruments in its possession.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Climate change is a major long-standing challenge confronting the world today. The international community is fully aware that climate change will affect national economic and social development and that it poses a threat to the sustainable development of human society. The importance of finding solutions to climate change is obvious to all. China is therefore ready and willing to discuss with other countries how to strengthen international cooperation and jointly respond to climate change.

Climate change may have certain security implications, but generally speaking it is in essence an issue of sustainable development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has laid down the framework and the basic principles for the international community's response to climate change. The Kyoto Protocol has set quantifiable albeit limited targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries. The Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other forums are involved in discussions and actions related to this theme. To tackle climate change effectively, it is necessary to follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities set forth in the Framework Convention, respect existing institutional arrangements, strengthen cooperation and encourage concrete action.

Climate change solutions require concerted efforts by the international community. Discussing climate change in the Security Council will not help countries in their efforts towards mitigation. Nor will it help developing countries affected by climate change to respond to it more effectively. Discussions on climate change should be conducted within a framework accessible to all parties. The developing countries believe that the Security Council lacks expertise in handling climate change and is not the right place to take decisions with extensive participation leading to widely acceptable proposals. Such reasonable concerns should be fully understood and respected. In our view, the discussions at this meeting should be regarded as an exception giving rise to neither outcome documents nor follow-up actions.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to climate change. As a developing country, China formulated its national sustainable development strategy as early as 15 years ago and is now formulating a national strategy to respond to climate change. China will vigorously implement its sustainable development strategy, and will make its due contribution to addressing climate change, in the form of actual deeds. We support full, pragmatic discussions on related issues within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are also in favour of international cooperation to promote clean development. At the end of this month, discussions on climate change will be held at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. We look forward to working with other countries towards climate change solutions.

The President: I would like to welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, at this meeting, and I invite him to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: Thank you, Madam, for the opportunity to address the Security Council on this serious and timely topic. Throughout human history, people and countries have fought over natural resources. From livestock, watering holes and fertile land, to trade routes, fish stocks and spices, sugar, oil, gold and other precious commodities, war has too often been the means to secure possession of scarce resources. Even today, the uninterrupted supply of fuel and minerals is a key element in geopolitical considerations.

Things are easier in times of plenty, when all can share in the abundance, even if to different degrees. But when resources — whether energy, water or arable land — are scarce, our fragile ecosystems become strained, as do the coping mechanisms of groups and individuals. This can lead to a breakdown of established codes of conduct, and even to outright conflict.

At the 2005 World Summit, Member States renewed their commitment to promoting a culture of prevention of armed conflict. They also pledged to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to that end. The Security Council adopted resolution 1625 (2005) on conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and reaffirmed the need to address the root causes of armed conflict.

In a series of reports on conflict prevention, my predecessor, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, pointed to the threats emanating from environmental degradation and resource scarcity. I would like to quote from the most recent of those reports:

> "Environmental degradation has the potential to destabilize already conflict-prone regions, especially when compounded by inequitable access or politicization of access to scarce resources. I urge Member States to renew their efforts to agree on ways that allow all of us to live sustainably within the planet's means." (*A/60/891, para. 22*)

Allow me to renew and amplify that call. Compared to the cost of conflict and its consequences, the cost of prevention is far lower — in financial terms, but also, and most importantly, in terms of human lives and quality of life.

I firmly believe that today all countries recognize that climate change, in particular, requires a long-term global response in line with the latest scientific findings and compatible with economic and social development.

According to the most recent assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the planet's warming is unequivocal and its impact is clearly noticeable, and it is beyond doubt that human activities have been contributing considerably to it. Adverse effects are already being felt in many areas, including agriculture and food security; oceans and coastal areas; biodiversity and ecosystems; water

resources; human health; human settlements; energy, transport and industry; and in terms of extreme weather events.

Projected changes in the earth's climate are thus not only an environmental concern; they can also have serious social and economic implications. And — as the Council points up today — issues of energy and climate change can have implications for peace and security. This is especially true in vulnerable regions that face multiple stresses at the same time — pre-existing conflict, poverty and unequal access to resources, weak institutions, food insecurity and the incidence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Consider the following scenarios — all alarming, though not alarmist. The adverse effects of changing weather patterns, such as floods and droughts, and related economic costs, including compensation for lost land, could risk polarizing society and marginalizing communities. That, in turn, could weaken the institutional capacity of the State to resolve conflict through peaceful and democratic means, to ensure social cohesion and to safeguard human rights.

Extreme weather events and natural disasters, such as floods and drought, increase the risk of humanitarian emergencies and, thus, the risk of instability and dislocation.

Migration driven by factors such as climate change could deepen tensions and conflicts, particularly in regions with large numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Scarcity of resources, especially water and food, could help transform peaceful competition into violence. Limited or threatened access to energy is already known to be a powerful driver of conflict; our changing planet risks making it more so. And, of course, the economic costs and losses of all of those scenarios would impede the ability of countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

Those are, of course, only possible scenarios. But we cannot sit back and watch to see whether they turn into reality. The entire multilateral machinery needs to come together to prevent that from happening.

We must focus more clearly on the benefits of early action. The resources of civil society and the private sector must be brought in. And the Council has a role to play in working with other competent intergovernmental bodies to address the possible root causes of conflict discussed today.

The Secretariat stands ready to assist all entities engaged in the pursuit of their respective mandates. I personally look forward to engaging with Member States on these issues and hope that, through discussions in various forums, we can develop a broad consensus on the way forward.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): My delegation associates itself with the statements to be made later by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some pertinent points relating to the issue before us. While my delegation can agree with the objectives of this debate relating to raising awareness of future potential risks and threats that the international community faces with regard to energy, security and climate, we also believe that it should not create a precedent for the future work of the Security Council. We consider that this issue is being addressed, and should be addressed more effectively, in other forums of the United Nations system, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will deliberate on the issue of energy and climate change at its fifteenth session.

My delegation is of the view that future threats to security posed by climate change must be prevented. We therefore call on all States to adhere to the Rio principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. In this regard, developed countries should immediately implement their commitments, particularly with regard to means of implementation. Without that, the adverse impact of climate change will not only continue to cause a deterioration in the environment, but also increase poverty and impede economic development, which are closely linked to potential security threats.

Realizing the formidable challenges ahead of us on issues of energy and climate change, we should seize the opportunity to reach global consensus on

ways to adapt to and mitigate climate change in the relevant forums. The upcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May, and particularly the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — to be held in Bali, Indonesia, this coming December — are two very important forums in which the issue of climate change and energy should be deliberated.

We believe that the success of the deliberations at those two meetings would contribute to creating an environment conducive to preventing the potential negative effects of climate change to security.

Mr. Arias (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, Madam, allow me to congratulate you on your Government's initiative of organizing this thematic debate on the links between energy, security and, in particular, the effects of climate change on potential causes of conflict and its impact on international security and stability.

In the coming weeks, the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States will be held in Panama, under the theme "Energy for sustainable development". That is further proof of the importance that the Government of Panama attaches to matters related to climate change and its consequences for society.

There is a strong, broadly recognized link between the availability of sources of clean, affordable and reliable energy and the sustainable development of peoples. That issue also encompasses other aspects, such as the growing costs of the competition for scarce energy resources, the defence and security of sources, and the right of States to meet their energy needs. It is clear, however, that we still need greater understanding of its impact on global warming, the environment and international peace and security. That is why we must strengthen national and regional capacities and mechanisms at various levels in order to better understand and address the situation.

Today, at the United Nations and various regional organizations, political, social and scientific efforts are being undertaken to understand the relationship between the use of certain energy resources, climate change and their consequences for human beings. Greater synergy and cooperation among actors, based on the unique characteristics of each region, will allow us better to grasp the approaching challenges.

The causes and effects of climate change are of such magnitude and varied impact that each and every United Nations organ, including the Security Council, is obligated to consider them under the respective mandates assigned to each by the Charter.

Today's debate, being held at the invitation of the Security Council with the participation of all States Members of the Organization, should focus especially on those aspects of the subject that could constitute sources of international conflict and instability. On previous occasions, the Council has held debates on its role in matters of competence shared among the other United Nations organs. For example, in 2000 we held a debate on the impact of HIV/AIDS on peace and security on the African continent. We sought then to provide visibility to the problem. Although the debate led to no direct action, it demonstrated the consensus of the international community on setting objectives. No one can deny the positive effect of actions undertaken because of that and other debates.

It is now undeniable that the use of fossil fuels to produce energy contributes to global warming. It is equally undeniable that global warming will exacerbate poverty and national tragedies, which are breeding grounds for civil war and, sometimes imperceptibly, for conflicts that affect international peace and security.

Although the impact of climate change on daily life may be subtle, it has powerful effects. The gradual accumulation of consequences is precisely its most dangerous quality, because, as the poet T.S. Eliot wrote, "This is the way the world ends/ Not with a bang but a whimper".

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): We, too, are very honoured and pleased that you, Madam, have come all this way to chair our meeting today.

I would also like to associate myself with the statements to be made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; by the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; and by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the African Group.

While underscoring the fact that this debate does not fall within the mandate of the Security Council, South Africa would like to use this opportunity to outline the priorities for mitigating and adapting to

climate change that are best addressed elsewhere within the United Nations system.

In 1992, the historic Earth Summit held in Brazil adopted the Rio Principles. Among those was the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which was accepted by the heads of State and Government as being fundamental to any debate on climate change.

Ten years later in September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, reaffirmed that principle. Furthermore, the Johannesburg Summit assigned the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol with the responsibility of following up on climate and sustainable development.

Recently, the report on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability issued by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reconfirmed that Africa is one of the continents most vulnerable to climate variability and change because of multiple stresses and low adaptive capacity. Some of the identified impacts for Africa resulting from climate change include the facts that, by 2020, between 75 million and 250 million people are projected to suffer exposure to an increase of water stress due to climate change; agricultural production, including access to food, is projected to be severely compromised by climate; local food supplies are projected to be negatively affected by decreasing fisheries; resource shortages in large lakes may be exacerbated by continued over-fishing; towards the end of the twenty-first century, projected sea-level rise will affect low-lying coastal areas with large populations; and the cost of adapting to those levels of climate change could amount to at least 5 to 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

Clearly, an inequitable global response, in which the largest historical emitters in the developed world do not shoulder their respective responsibilities to mitigate climate change or assist vulnerable countries to adapt, may in future contribute to human insecurity and could thereby indirectly contribute to instability and exacerbate conflict potential. The developed countries should take the lead in providing new and additional funding for adaptation activities. It is also critical that all developed countries commit to legally binding emission reductions and meet their other obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

The developing world is relatively unprepared for disasters and is under-resourced to deal with the consequences of extreme weather events. The least developed countries, especially in Africa and Asia, as well as the small island developing States, cannot bear the brunt of these costs. The appropriate United Nations bodies should strengthen their capacity to deal with disaster and humanitarian crises resulting from climate change, including new efforts focused on predicting, preventing, and handling climate-change-related disasters.

The established multilateral processes in the climate debate in terms of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol are in place and we look forward to the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Bali, Indonesia in December this year. What is of the utmost importance is that the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol are honoured by all countries if we are to avoid a catastrophe brought about by climate change.

The examples we have raised to describe the impact of climate change do not as yet directly threaten international peace and security. Moreover, the issues discussed here are first and foremost of a developmental nature. These issues can be best dealt with regionally in the General Assembly, a more representative body than the Security Council. Furthermore, the mandate of the Security Council does not authorize it to deal with such matters.

We remain convinced that it is vital for all Member States to promote sustainable development, adhere to the Rio principles, especially the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", and to fully implement Agenda 21. We hope that these commitments will be reiterated at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will meet in New York in a couple of weeks.

It is for this reason that South Africa attaches great importance to the assurance by the delegation of the United Kingdom that this Security Council meeting will not result in any outcome or summary. We further hope that these discussions will not in any way elevate

the issue of climate change or the environment to being a Security Council agenda item.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Russia is an active participant in the international climate process. At all of its stages, we have consistently advocated and continue to advocate the consolidation of the efforts of all countries without exception in this area.

In 2003, in Moscow, upon the initiative of President Putin, a world conference on climate change was held, which made a significant contribution to analyzing how to develop international cooperation in the area of climate. It was actually the decision of Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol that enabled that important instrument to enter into force.

According to the fourth national report submitted by the Russian Federation in 2006 to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the total volume of greenhouse gas emissions in Russia in 2004 dropped by 29.9 per cent compared to the base year 1990. These reduced emissions in Russia helped to a great extent to reduce the man-made impact on the global climate by significantly offsetting the increase in greenhouse gas emissions in the developed countries during this period.

Russia intends to carry out the quantitative commitments it undertook under the Kyoto Protocol up to 2012. To achieve this goal, we have all of the necessary instruments, including the appropriate normative legal basis. We think that it is crucial that decisions on future international actions in the area of climate be taken on the basis of comprehensive scientific research with the involvement of leading national and international organizations and agencies.

Here, I would like to make an appeal to avoid panicking and overdramatizing the situation, which does not help us reach long-term comprehensive agreements in this area. We believe that the world community must actively continue to work out measures to reduce the negative impact of man's activities on the global climate.

For full consideration of the problem of climate change in all of its aspects, including the analysis of new challenges and threats in this area, appropriate international forums and formats exist, such as the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Security Council, for its part, should only deal with the consideration of questions that directly relate to its mandate.

Mr. Voto-Bernales (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to welcome you here today amongst us, Madam President, and extend to you our sincere congratulations for the sure way in which the United Kingdom is presiding over the work of the Security Council this month. Peru would also like to welcome the United Kingdom initiative to invite the Security Council to consider the implications that the current patterns of climate change may have on international peace and security.

In the last weeks, the results of two Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have confirmed the known trends with regard to the increase in the average temperature of the planet as well as the increase in sea levels because of climate change. These projected climate changes will definitely have significant effects on the world environment and on economic activities, human health, food security and, in general, human society. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves how these effects will affect international peace and security.

The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change pointed out that the greatest threats to security that we face today and will be facing in future decades will include, amongst other things, poverty, infectious diseases and the degradation of the environment. And the degradation of the environment, in turn, has also increased the destructive potential of disasters and in some cases has actually set them off. Of even greater concern, as pointed out by the same High-level Panel, is that, if climate change leads to greater flooding, heat waves, drought and serious storms, this trend could accelerate.

So, climate change could exacerbate the economic and social conditions today that could have an explosive effect on security, such as poverty, marginalization and exclusion. Peru in this very Security Council has called attention to the importance of taking into account this situation and we have referred to some of the aspects that are part of the agenda. Thus, with respect to Haiti, we have reiterated

that recovery from the environmental disaster resulting from years of marginalization and extreme poverty will be made even more difficult if the effects of the current climate changes intensify.

However, climate change is not a fate to which we must simply resign ourselves. It is the result of the actions of man, and it is up to all of us to act responsibly to reverse this trend. Unfortunately, we all have to be aware at the same time that any efforts we make to change course will not have immediate effects because the current effects of climate change are the result of past emissions that have built up today in the atmosphere. Therefore, the climate will continue to change over a long period of time, even if we do drastically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in the short-term. Therefore, we have to act quickly and in a decisive fashion.

We are convinced, therefore, that attention to these potentially damaging trends should be based on prevention of rather than reaction to their possible effects on international peace and security. This is Peru's approach at the national level, and we are promoting regional actions on an Andean, or Pacific, or South American scale.

We are seriously concerned about the consequences of climate change with regard to the stability, development and well-being that we all seek. The population of Peru lives in a high diversity of eco-systems. In our case, the greater intensity and higher frequency of the El Niño phenomenon gives rise to severe flooding along the coast and to droughts in the Andes, and this has grave social and economic effects. Also, our glaciers, which represent more than half of the tropical glaciers in the world, are being affected by rapid thawing. This leads to shortages of water for human consumption, agriculture and energy generation. The Peruvian Amazonian forest, which is the second-largest in Latin America, and which is a biodiversity reserve of incalculable value, will also be affected. Although the phenomenon of climate change will affect each region differently and to a different extent, it is a problem of a global scale, one that can be tackled only by means of multilateral and concerted action on the part of the entire international community, within the agreed legal framework and the principles underlying it, in particular that of common but differentiated responsibilities. We reaffirm here that it is urgent to adopt specific measures that will limit the emission of greenhouse gases; and, therefore, it is a matter of priority to strengthen the multilateral Kyoto regime and to fulfil the commitments made thereunder.

In conclusion, we feel that what is required is a firm will for political cooperation within a framework comprising legal instruments and competent bodies to avoid the worst scenarios that the scientific community is prophesying. The greatest challenge that this situation offers us is that of facing up to it collectively. Our responsibility to future generations requires this as a matter of urgency.

The President: I will now make a statement in my capacity as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom.

For the United Kingdom, as for my Belgian colleague and others who have spoken in this debate, climate change is transforming the way that we think about security. Over the last couple of years, the threat we face has grown larger in scale and sharper in outline. Recent scientific evidence has reinforced and, in some cases, exceeded our worst fears. It has given us a picture of the physical impacts on our world that we can expect as our climate changes; and those impacts go far beyond the environmental. Their consequences reach to the very heart of the security agenda. Consequences of flooding, disease and famine — and, from that, migration on an unprecedented scale. The consequences of drought and crop failure — and, from that, intensified competition for food, water and energy. The consequences of economic disruption on the scale predicted in the Stern report are not seen since the end of the Second World War.

Charged as we are with the maintenance of international peace and security, this Council can make a unique contribution to the building of a shared understanding of what an unstable climate will mean for our individual and collective security. We can, and I believe we must, because this Council deals day in and day out with those very kinds of tensions and conflicts that an unstable climate will make yet more frequent and even more dangerous. As a group of the most respected retired American admirals and generals said in a report published just yesterday, climate change is a threat-multiplier for instability.

Listening to the debate, I am struck by the widespread recognition that there are significant links clearly already being experienced by some countries

between the impacts to be expected from climate change and the increased risks of conflict and insecurity within and between States. The United Kingdom fully agrees that full account should be taken of climate risks as we address the root causes of conflict. And, like other Council members, I very much welcome the Secretary-General's offer to assist us in such work.

The fact that so many non-members of the Security Council have chosen to speak today is a reflection of the bitter truth that instability will often be visited first and hardest on the already most vulnerable. President Museveni of Uganda, whose economy depends on hydropower from a reservoir that is already depleted by drought, has called climate change an act of aggression by the rich against the poor. He is one of the first leaders to see this problem in security terms. He will not be the last.

Certainly for the United Kingdom, climate change is a security issue, but it is not a matter of narrow national security. It has a new dimension. It is about our collective security in a fragile and increasingly interdependent world.

The United Kingdom proposed this debate during our presidency, because we felt that by facing up to the implications of climate change for that collective security, the world will take wiser decisions as we begin to build a low-carbon global economy — not at the cost of development — but to enable us to build a new kind of, indeed, sustainable development, as the representative of Qatar sought.

If our shared endeavour succeeds, maybe we can achieve this. Of course, as a number of colleagues have said, there are other organs of the United Nations that have particular responsibilities in respect of climate change, but this is not an either/or. The United Kingdom would welcome substantial debates in the General Assembly. Indeed, I made this issue a particular feature of the speech I made to the General Assembly last September. Also, we would welcome debates in the Economic and Social Council. I am well aware, as has been mentioned, that the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development this year will focus on energy. I look forward to the output of those discussions.

I think this debate has already shown that this is an issue not just of grave concern, but also very much of common concern, and so I judge that we need that shared endeavour to which I referred a moment ago. If it succeeds, we will all enjoy better prospects for security. Climate change is a threat that can bring us together if we have the wisdom to prevent it from driving us apart.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

On behalf of the Security Council, I now give the floor to the representative of Germany. I extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Let me start by thanking you, Madam President, for convening this meeting which has received the high level of interest it rightfully deserves. The security implications of climate change should receive more attention and, therefore, we welcome this opportunity to convey the perspective of the EU on this subject.

This Council usually deals with more imminent threats to international peace and security than those caused by climate change. However, less obvious and more distant drivers of conflict should not be neglected.

This is true especially against the background of one of our central tasks — the prevention of violent conflict. The Security Council is committed to a culture of prevention, as incorporated in resolution 1625 (2005). Today we know that there is a clear link between climate change and the need for conflict prevention.

The past decade was the warmest on record, forcing glaciers and Arctic ice to retreat. Moreover, the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provide clear evidence that our globe is already being heavily affected by temperature increases caused by man-made warming. Some of the profound changes in many of the Earth's natural

systems projected by the Panel will have direct or indirect implications for security.

We can imagine how water scarcity — as has been mentioned by many representatives — as well as scarcity of food and fertile land could contribute to driving conflict. The countries most vulnerable to environmental stress factors are small island States, low-lying coastal nations and countries in arid and semi-arid areas. They contribute least to the problem but are most affected by climate change. To give only two examples, several small island States are seeing their very existence threatened by rising sea levels. As early as 2020, up to 250 million people in Africa are projected to suffer from increased lack of water due to climate change. In addition, and more generally, elsewhere we can anticipate much more frequent and extreme floods and droughts, with potentially disastrous effects on food production, food security and human life, as well as potentially destructive impacts on livelihoods.

The vulnerability of people, particularly in poor countries, can increase the potential for instability and conflict. Certainly a wide range of interacting factors such as ethnic tensions, trans-border disputes, inequalities within societies, population movements and failed States can contribute to armed conflict. But climate change will become an increasingly important factor among root causes of conflict as the climate continues to change at an ever faster rate.

What is the conclusion we should draw from these findings? The cost of action on climate change is far outweighed by the consequences of inaction. We need to give due consideration to the security implications of inaction and mitigate those risks. We are in need of a global framework of risk management to address the challenge of climate change. Such a framework needs to be based on two pillars: mitigation and adaptation.

Concerning the mitigation pillar, we have to keep changes in the world's climate within manageable limits. Hence, we need to formulate a forward-looking climate and energy policy. The world is expecting new and determined measures from Governments and the United Nations which will shape the future of humanity on our planet. The EU is prepared to play its part in efforts to address those challenges at the global level and is calling upon others to do the same. This is above all a political imperative, but it also makes sense economically. That is why the EU decided in March this year to put itself on fast track to a low-carbon economy.

The EU has decided to take the lead and to unilaterally reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2020 compared to 1990 levels, regardless of the progress made in international negotiations for a post-2012 agreement. Yet since the EU is responsible for only 15 per cent of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, the effects of our reduction will be limited. It is thus necessary to reach a global and comprehensive agreement on how to combat climate change beyond 2012. The European Union offers a binding 30 per cent target compared to 1990, provided other developed countries take similar steps and economically more advanced developing countries adequately contribute according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

In addition, the EU adopted a binding target for the increased use of renewable energy and aims to achieve significant increases in energy savings. We hope that those goals will inspire the leaders of both the Group of Eight (G-8) and of economically more advanced developing countries. We also hope that those goals will help pave the way for ambitious international climate negotiations.

Concerning the adaptation pillar, we need to consider the consequences of unavoidable climate changes. To that end, we think that the security dimension should be duly reflected in future research and reports on the effects of climate change.

We are convinced that an overall framework of preventive diplomacy is needed in order to alleviate the worst consequences outlined in the recent IPCC report. Like other challenges to humankind, such as hunger, disease, poverty, water scarcity and migration, climate change should be addressed in a holistic and preventive manner. If we realize the interdependency of these factors, it will be easier to devise coherent and holistic approaches, and it might be easier to increase adaptive capacities, especially in those countries most vulnerable to those challenges.

No country alone can tackle problems of that dimension. Environmental, economic and energy policy decisions in one part of the world directly or indirectly affect people elsewhere and could be a root cause of conflict there. Sound environmental policies

therefore become an essential part of conflict prevention on a global scale.

We have to develop concrete strategies for coherent, integrated and holistic responses on the part of the United Nations family and United Nations institutions to address this challenge, and many United Nations institutions and organs can and should make a contribution to facing it. They should work hand in hand in a cooperative manner. No institution can claim exclusive competence with respect to this cross-cutting issue.

In conclusion, we think that the complexity of the subject and the institutional aspects of dealing with the various effects of climate change should not deter us from our task: to ensure that current and future generations can live in a safer and more prosperous world. I am sure that today's debate will deliver a valuable and powerful message that will contribute to the upcoming climate negotiations for a post-2012 framework, to be held in Bali in December.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Koenders (Netherlands): The Netherlands welcomes this important initiative to hold a debate on energy, security and climate. It has come at the right time. The primary responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security. Understandably, the Council tends to focus on current conflicts. Sometimes, however, we need to look beyond the horizon of current conflicts to explore the challenges and threats to security that the future may bring. I refer here to the very useful discussion in the Council on the impact of HIV/AIDS on peace and security in Africa.

Millions of people will listen to and watch the Live Earth concerts on 7 July. They will wonder what world leaders are and will be doing to reduce the risk of climate change. The discussion here today underlines the Council's commitment.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report clearly shows, more strongly than ever before, that action is urgently needed. The world is being exposed to the increasingly devastating effects of climate change. Climate change may have far-reaching and potentially dramatic consequences for security in regions throughout the world, such as shortages of water and food, health problems, population movements, and environmental and social stress. New sources of conflict may emerge. Disasters might occur more frequently, with more devastating effect.

According to United Nations estimates, by 2010 the world will have 50 million environmental refugees, even without taking the impact of climate change into account. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) refers to an 80 per cent chance that availability of water in subtropical areas will substantially decline. By 2050, billions of people will be coping with an inadequate or even non-existent water supply. It is obvious that this will have not only social, economic and humanitarian, but also security implications.

Climate, peace and security are, in our view, global public goods of crucial importance. Though the poorest countries have contributed the least to climate change, they will be the most seriously affected by it. And they lack the knowledge, capacity and resources to deal with it. That problem must be addressed. We have to ensure that countries can cope with the risks posed by climate change. This is of immediate importance. Not only individual countries but also United Nations agencies, the World Bank and other institutions have an important role to play in ensuring full-fledged disaster preparedness.

Now, in order for this to happen, the 2005 Summit called for a culture of prevention. Timely addressing of climate change and identifying its potential security risks can help prevent conflicts. We urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to alert the Security Council of climate related crisis situations which might endanger peace and security.

The two main priorities of today, in dealing with climate change and related security risks, are to reduce emissions and to adapt to the impact of climate change. It is urgent, now, to mitigate current trends. In my view, it is unacceptable and irresponsible that negotiations for a post-2012 arrangement are deadlocked. We cannot wait.

As the German European Union presidency just stated, the EU has shown leadership in an effort to overcome the deadlock. Without waiting to see what other countries would do, the EU leaders decided this spring that emissions must be cut by 20 per cent by

2020. The Netherlands even wants to achieve a 30 per cent cut. That should reduce the risk of climate change to an acceptable interim level, but efforts need to be continued beyond that date.

However, everything will depend on the commitment of every country concerned. I am referring here not only to the large industrial countries, but also to all economies that contribute to the growth of CO_2 emissions. The United Nations negotiations for a post-2012 arrangement will be crucial if we are to make that commitment together, and we urge Member Sates to take the political initiative to make that possible.

Climate change is making it more difficult and more expensive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It means that poverty will prevail longer, and that is unacceptable. We have to stand by the goals we set for ourselves in 2000. Addressing climate change means addressing the Millennium Development Goals. The IPCC also points out that sustainable development can make countries less vulnerable to climate change by enhancing their adaptive capacity and increasing their resilience.

As is well known, the Netherlands has a special relationship with water. Much of the country is below sea level. The Dutch Government will continue to take action to secure it from the effects of further rises in sea level. We are willing to share our knowledge with other delta countries, particularly in the developing world. But the Netherlands is not only preparing for threats from the sea. We are also taking account of our rivers — the Rhine, for instance — that flow into the Netherlands from our neighbouring countries. Water availability in catchment areas will change, and that might well influence stability between countries — even between regions. We are working with countries such as those in the Nile, Zambezi and Mekong basins to cope with climate change and ensure water-supply stability. The aim is to build confidence and promote peaceful, mutually beneficial solutions.

Mitigation and adaptation will require new funding, based on the principle that the polluter pays. Those who are most responsible for climate change should also be the ones to pay the most towards mitigating its effects. Carbon markets play an important role here. As an innovative way of funding adaptation, a levy on carbon dioxide emissions and other innovative financing mechanisms might be further studied. I propose that the World Bank and the United Nations actively continue exploring ideas for innovative financing.

International legal instruments are also needed to deal with the consequences of climate change. Extensive knowledge already exists in the field, and we need to bring the experts together with the policymakers, politicians, diplomats and non-governmental organizations. The Netherlands will be happy to facilitate conferences and policy debates in The Hague, the legal capital of the world, and take a political initiative to further that.

I highly appreciate the discussion today in the Security Council. Prime Minister Tony Blair underlined the mismatch between the global challenges we face and the global institutions available to confront them. The United Nations needs to be streamlined to meet those challenges effectively. We wholeheartedly applaud the decision of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to make climate change one of his priorities. Climate change requires us to reassess security risks, so that we can take adequate preventive and corrective measures. I invite the Secretary-General not only to alert the Security Council of risks to peace and security, but also to instruct United Nations agencies to support preventive measures. I strongly encourage him to continue working towards a world summit on climate change. Such a Summit and today's debate must contribute to addressing the problems of climate change. We owe it to our children and future generations. The billions of fellow citizens who will experience the huge Live Earth event on 7 July. They will rightly ask us to do that.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency, the Honourable Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives. I give him the floor.

Mr. Shahid (Maldives): For the Maldives,

> "a mean sea-level rise of 2 metres would suffice virtually to submerge the entire country of ... small islands, most of which barely rise over 2 metres above mean sea level. That would be the death of a nation. ...
>
> "We in the Maldives have seen and lived through grim experiences which could be indicators of the dire consequences of global

environmental change provoked and exacerbated by man." (A/42/PV.41, p. 23)

That is what my President, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, said in his address to the General Assembly during its special debate on environment and development in October 1987. Almost 20 years on from that address and as we begin another vital debate — this time in the Security Council — I think it is important to recall the efforts made by small countries like the Maldives to draw the world's attention to the urgency of climate change and its consequences.

The tsunami of December 2004 was a wake-up call for Asia and for the rest of the world. The tsunami provided a snapshot of what the long-term impact of climate change and sea-level rise will be for small, vulnerable countries like the Maldives.

For the people of the Maldives, dealing with climate change and its consequences is already an everyday fact of life. Over the past two decades we have seen, first-hand, the real, practical reality of climate change and sea-level rise. The Maldives is made up of about 1,200 small coral islands, of which about 200 are inhabited. Today, over 60 per cent of those inhabited islands are facing varying degrees of coastal erosion, which is physically threatening the human settlements on them.

We are heartened by the increased attention that has recently been given to the issue of environmental degradation and climate change. We are also encouraged by the increasing awareness of the issue and are optimistic that those positive developments will lead to a greater commitment from the international community to deal with the matter.

I wish to thank the United Kingdom, in its capacity as president of the Security Council, for promoting today's debate. I wish also to pay a special tribute to you, Madam President. Your presence here attests to the importance attached by your Government to this issue.

This debate in the Security Council should stress that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is indispensable in order to enable the United Nations to remain relevant and capable of meeting existing, new and emerging threats and challenges. The issues of the environment, energy and climate change have been addressed in various United Nations entities such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, their relevant subsidiary bodies, such as the Commission on Social Development, and the United Nations Environment Programme. Moreover, climate change is the subject of a binding multilateral agreement: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its supportive protocol, the Kyoto Protocol.

Maldives joins the Group of 77 and China in supporting the view that it is vital for all Members to promote sustainable development — but by adhering to the Rio principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and by fully implementing Agenda 21. Furthermore, Maldives stresses the urgent need to fulfil all other commitments related to the provision of financial resources and the transfer of available technologies to developing countries without delay. Capacity-building is essential in order to enable developing countries to form and implement adaptation strategies. I would also like to take this opportunity to call on the States that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

My country reaffirms the key role of energy in achieving the goals of sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Maldives has already attained a number of the Goals and is clearly on track to achieve many of the rest. However, ensuring environmental sustainability is a challenge that we cannot meet on our own. Next year we will embark on a three-year transition period, after which we will graduate from the list of least developed countries. Despite that achievement, however, our inherent vulnerabilities will remain. It is ironic that the tsunami of 2004 washed away 20 years of development work only six days after the General Assembly adopted its resolution 59/210, on the graduation of Maldives from the list of least developed countries.

Climate change is now a fact. It is not an issue surrounded by scientific uncertainties. The best scientific knowledge has clearly and decisively stated the magnitude of the threat faced by humankind. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is sufficient in that respect, and the review undertaken by Sir Nicholas Stern has shown the economic challenges of climate change and its threat to world output. The consequences of inaction would be enormous for the developing world.

Maldives has recently developed its first adaptation programme of action in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has incorporated climate change adaptation into its national development plans and the Government's annual budgets. Substantial financial resources are urgently required for speedy implementation of adaptation projects by countries, such as Maldives, that are among the most vulnerable.

Maldives favours and calls for a meaningful commitment on emissions reductions for a post-2012 regime. Negotiations in that regard should be accelerated, with a tangible commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to pre-industrial-era levels. Not only is it imperative that the rich nations demonstrate leadership; it is also moral to safeguard from harm the vulnerable poor countries which are confronting aggravated climate change.

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (General Assembly resolution 60/1) world leaders agreed on the need to act with resolve and urgency in facing the serious and multiple challenges in tackling climate change, promoting clean energy, meeting energy needs and achieving sustainable development.

I shall conclude my brief remarks by echoing the sentiments expressed at the 2005 World Summit and by quoting from the address of my President, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002.

> "What we need to do is simple: put our words into deeds. The only question that has to be answered is, 'Do we have the will?' I put the question to you once again: Do we have the will?"

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Pakistan, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Amil (Pakistan): I have the honour to make this contribution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the decision by the Security Council to hold a debate on energy, security and climate.

The Group is of the view that Security Council's primary responsibility is for the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in the United Nations Charter. On the other hand, other issues, including those relating to economic and social development, are assigned by the Charter to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The ever-increasing encroachment by the Security Council on the roles and responsibilities of other principal organs of the United Nations represents a distortion of the principles and purposes of the Charter; it also infringes on their authority and compromises the rights of the general membership of the United Nations.

The issues of energy and climate change are vital for sustainable development. Responsibilities in the field of sustainable development belong to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, their relevant subsidiary bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the United Nations Environment Programme. Climate change is the subject of a binding multilateral agreement — the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — and a supportive protocol — the Kyoto Protocol. No role was envisaged for the Security Council.

We are of the view that it is vital for all Member States to promote sustainable development, adhering to the Rio principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and fully implement Agenda 21 and other commitments related to the provision of financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity-building for developing countries, undertaken at Rio and Johannesburg and at other relevant United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields.

The Group has consistently maintained that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides the appropriate forum to consider risks associated with climate change and actions needed to address climate change in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention. Developed countries should take urgent action to fulfil their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. Those countries that have not yet done so should accede to the Kyoto Protocol.

The Group also feels that it is inappropriate to consider the issue of energy in the Security Council. We reaffirm the key role of energy in achieving the goals of sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, we emphasize the critical role of the international community in the provision of adequate,

predictable, new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and enhancing capacity-building for the developing countries, as agreed in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the relevant decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Also, there is a need for political will and commitment to explore innovative ways of applying energy-efficient, environmentally sound, cost-effective and socially acceptable technologies and systems.

The Group of 77 and China will continue to pursue the realization of the goals of sustainable development and the fulfilment of commitments by developed countries in all relevant bodies, especially at the forthcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and we urge others to do likewise.

We hope that the decision by the Council to hold this debate does not create a precedent or undermine the authority or mandate of the relevant bodies, processes and instruments which are already addressing these issues.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Switzerland, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this timely debate on energy, security and climate. Switzerland welcomes your initiative and shares the passionate arguments and concerns you have raised in your concept paper.

It is important that the Security Council contribute to raising awareness about the repercussions of environmental degradation on international peace and security, including through its impact on the drivers of conflicts. We must also reflect on ways to improve our response to such challenges. We do not consider this initiative to be an encroachment by the Security Council on the responsibilities and functions of the General Assembly. We believe that climate change and environmental issues in general are themes that will have to be addressed by different bodies in the framework of their respective mandates.

Climate change and conflict are closely linked. However, the problem of climate change constitutes only one important aspect of the broader problem of environmental degradation. Conflicts are often a consequence of dwindling natural resources such as energy, water and soil. The causes of such conflicts will not be resolved by focusing on climate change alone. We therefore should bear in mind the often-neglected environmental dimensions of conflict as a whole and address them at all stages: conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict recovery.

Switzerland is particularly concerned about the looming food and water insecurity in many parts of the world due to the cumulative effects of population growth, changing food habits, shortage of cultivable land, spreading degradation of the soil and water-resource constraints. The need to produce more and healthier food from less land with less water is a reality that should be tackled urgently by both Governments and the private sector. Climate-related factors of change tend to aggravate this already enormous challenge, because those countries most exposed to their likely negative impact are often those with inadequate means to adapt or to take the necessary preventive measures.

As rightly stressed in the concept paper, Member States have the primary responsibility for efforts to prevent conflicts and reduce the risks of disaster. Switzerland would like to invite all stakeholders to participate in the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007. This high-level event intends to raise awareness and to consider ways and means to move disaster risk reduction higher up on the international policy agenda.

Environmental degradation, including climate change, and its impact on all forms of livelihood constitute an additional challenge because they can contribute to forced migration, with all the destabilizing effects that can have on societies in countries of origin, transit and destination. In managing that phenomenon, Member States are urged to respect their obligations under international law. In this respect, I should like to highlight the positive contribution made by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in adopting the Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters. These guidelines are increasingly being used by humanitarian and development actors and by the Security Council to reinforce those positive effects.

The protection of the environment and sustainable development are a pillar of our foreign

policy. Switzerland is currently undertaking a more structured analysis of the links between environmental degradation, the use of natural resources and violent conflict. We are therefore ready to contribute substantively to the discussion within the United Nations.

Already, at this early stage it is safe to say that each conflict has its specificities with regard to the environmental drivers of conflict; there are no simple answers. There is therefore an obvious need to strengthen our analytical capacities in order to channel targeted and authoritative input into the Council's policy debate. However, potential risk factors should be examined on a case-by-case basis rather than by predefining priority areas. Where environmental factors are elements explicitly affecting security, the Council may wish to consider creating a specific environmental capacity for conflicts and thus strengthen its own abilities in this area.

Above all, we see added value in that the Security Council, when debating a specific conflict, would have recourse to environmental expertise that could help it understand the drivers of conflict or provide assessments of the environmental impact of the conflict. The United Nations Environment Programme, which we have collectively designated as the central environmental pillar of the United Nations system, must be strengthened so that it can respond to such requests. As we are organized at present, we may get opinions on possible drivers of conflict but rarely get relevant and authoritative advice.

As the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, Switzerland very much welcomes its readiness to examine the challenges that climate change and environmental degradation pose in terms of causes of conflicts. The resulting threat to international peace and security is both interdependent and multidimensional; it thus has social and economic repercussions. We hope that this debate will provide impetus, including with regard to the need to strengthen the coherence of the United Nations system and international environmental governance, in the framework of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant entities of the system, including the Security Council.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Papua New Guinea, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): On behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Small Island Developing States — Fiji, Nauru, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country — I would like to thank you, Madam President, and your delegation for giving us the opportunity to speak at this very important debate in the Security Council.

The Pacific island countries are already experiencing the effects of climate change, and they represent some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. According to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Pacific island countries are facing extreme risks to their survival as nations. Many islands are not more than a few metres above sea level. As wave actions are exponentially linked to sea level, an increase of half a metre in sea level would completely inundate these island States, putting at risk the survival of their human populations.

Climate change is also expected to increase the intensity of tropical cyclones. While the evidence is not as clear in this case, the pattern of tropical storms seen in the last few years is cause for deep concern. Prior to 1985, for example, the Cook Islands were considered to be out of the main cyclone belt and could expect a serious cyclone approximately every 20 years. This has changed. Most notably, there were five cyclones within one month — in February and March of 2005 — three of which were classified Category 5 as they passed through Cook Islands waters. While these recent cyclones caused damage equal to 10 per cent of the Government's annual budget, destroyed 75 per cent of homes on the island of Pukapuka and caused emotional distress, no lives were lost, due to activation of warning systems and preparedness by the general public. In 2004, the island of Niue was hit by Cyclone Heta, with the ocean rising over the 30-metre-high cliffs, causing two deaths and making 20 per cent of the population homeless. All told, Heta caused economic damages equivalent to 200 years of exports. The country's only museum lost 90 per cent of its collection.

The king tides that have struck Tuvalu and Kiribati in recent years are further dramatic examples

of how climate change will affect our communities. Wells and agriculture were poisoned by sea water, house foundations undermined and graves exposed. Those are just some of impacts that have been observed in our region. Those are dramatic events, and pose a significant threat to peace and security in the Pacific, as the people may have to abandon their traditional lands, their homes and possibly their nations.

Climate change has several other related impacts. Vector-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever, are increasing their range upland in Papua New Guinea, and the incidence of dengue fever was especially high this year in the Pacific in general. A World Bank study on climate change and health found that a dengue epidemic in Fiji in 1998 cost the country about $3 million to $6 million. The World Bank also estimated that the economic costs of a dengue epidemic in Kiribati would be beyond the coping capacity of that country.

Climate change is also going to have an impact on economic activities in the region. The 1997-1998 El Niño event saw a significant westward shift of major tuna stocks, making some of our economies and dinner tables suffer. That temporary warming of the Western Pacific during the El Niño-Southern Oscillation is a harbinger of things to come should the seas permanently rise in surface temperature. Deteriorating coral reefs, the nurseries for certain fish stocks, are being severely damaged by warming waters, coral bleaching and ocean acidification. We fear that there will be a major decline fish stocks as a result. We also have to consider the overall issue of the sovereignty of our current exclusive economic zones under climate change scenarios, the right to fish in those waters, and our ability to patrol and control them.

Climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise are therefore not just environmental concerns, but also economic, social and political issues for Pacific island countries. They strike at the very heart of our existence. The impacts, and in particular the related economic and social shocks, pose serious political and national financial management issues for Pacific island countries. Climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise adversely affect gross domestic product, balance of payments, budget deficits, foreign debt, unemployment and living standards.

Therefore, climate change is undermining the very basis for the existence of 12 independent Pacific island countries, as well as seven Pacific island territories. Climate change is an overarching threat, and all of its impacts are and will be detrimental to us. We know and understand many of the impacts, but there is still much more knowledge that is necessary. We also need to ensure that our communities are well briefed on those impacts and that they are empowered with the capacity to plan for mitigation and adaptation. Our Governments will establish overall climate change policy, but it is the communities that will have to agree to and implement appropriate measures.

We in the Pacific islands are not standing idly by. Together with our development partners, some steps are being taken. For example, as a means of adapting to present climate variability and climate change, in 2006 the village of Lateu in Vanuatu was relocated further inland in order to avoid storm surges, frequent inundation, coastal erosion and flooding. The Canadian Government funded the relocation, and the new settlement has been made more resilient through improved water storage, new agricultural practices and better-constructed houses, but many Pacific communities have no higher ground to move to. Moreover, most of our economic activities — such as tourism, shipping and infrastructure — are located in the coastal zones. Even in the higher islands, there are limits to what can be physically moved. There are also limits to what our Governments can afford.

In some areas of the Cook Islands, such as Manihiki Atoll, where 3 per cent of the island's population was killed by eight-metre waves washing over the island during cyclone Martin in 1997, more concrete preparedness or adaptation measures are required. That is sensible from a risk-management perspective, and through projects such as the Global Environment Facility and the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change, such things as cyclone shelters and communications equipment, as well as the incorporation of climate proofing, where possible, in infrastructure design, will be implemented in the Pacific in the coming years.

Individuals and communities should be empowered to adapt by ensuring that they possess a water tank to better deal with drought or floods, allowing setbacks or building on poles if homes are in coastal areas. Risk assessments to see which

communities are vulnerable, and taking steps to address those risks, are essential.

Our Pacific ancestors living on those islands and voyaging across the Pacific dealt with a great deal of climate variability and adapted to new environments. They often did so by learning and understanding the natural system, using existing traditional knowledge, or else by sailing on to new islands.

Traditional knowledge in the region is passed on verbally and is particularly important for increasing understanding and awareness of climate risks at the community level and in the local language. Traditional knowledge by necessity fills a gap in small islands, where pure science data collection is sparse. In terms of managing climate risks, our traditional leaders have clear roles to play in our risk-management programmes, in mobilizing community response, and in increasing ecosystem resilience through indirect methods, such as defining traditional marine protected or no-harvest areas for reefs that are vulnerable to sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and run-off sedimentation.

Many of our island communities have begun strengthening the resilience of natural systems in that manner in order to protect themselves against waves. Coral reefs and mangroves are the first line of defence against storm surges and erosion, and those are being protected through marine parks and coastal zone management. But coral reefs exist within a very narrow band of temperatures and are very sensitive to sea-temperature increases, as shown by the numerous bleaching events in past years. Mangroves, on the other hand, are very sensitive to sea-level changes, and their capacity for inland migration may be obstructed by the settlements they currently protect. Our best protection against extreme climatic events is thus being undermined by climate change.

It has been said that, for the Pacific island countries, all areas affected by climate change are priority areas. In order to build a shared and sufficiently robust understanding of what needs to be done, Pacific island countries see the need for progress in a number of mutually supportive areas. We need to continue to build a stronger and more comprehensive international climate change regime within the Framework Convention on Climate Change that uses the best scientific knowledge and assesses its implications.

The negotiations on future commitments for the international community as a whole should be based on the following priorities: to give equal priority to adaptation and mitigation; to slow the rate of warming and sea-level rise; to avoid positive climate feedbacks and their destructive consequences; to convince developing countries that industrialized countries are serious about addressing climate change and finding ways to reduce emissions in all countries; to maintain public credibility in the climate Convention; to stop further delays in taking action; to minimize the economic costs to developing countries of preventing dangerous climate change; to stop investment by the developed world in long-lived carbon-intensive capital equipment and infrastructure; to promote a massive worldwide expansion of renewable energy; to provide greater flexibility to future generations; and to send strong signals to industry that climate change is a serious issue and that it needs to find solutions.

Within other multilateral processes, there is also scope for some of those issues to be addressed to increase international cooperation in finding solutions. All the impacts that I have enumerated are considered in different forums, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

This debate in the Security Council suggests that there are additional avenues for discussing one of the most critical issues for the survival of our Pacific island communities. The Security Council and the General Assembly have accepted the principle of the responsibility to protect. The dangers that small islands and their populations face are no less serious than those faced by nations and peoples threatened by guns and bombs. The effects on our populations are as likely to cause massive dislocations of people as past and present wars. The impacts on social cohesion and identity are as likely to cause resentment, hatred and alienation as any current refugee crisis.

Pacific peoples have inhabited their islands for thousands of years and have rich and vibrant cultures. We are likely to become the victims of a phenomenon to which we have contributed very little and which we can do very little to halt. We are taking action on renewable energy and energy efficiency and in seeking to avoid deforestation, but our primary focus is on

adaptation and preparing for the worst. The Security Council, charged with protecting human rights and the integrity and security of States, is the paramount international forum available to us. We do not expect the Security Council to get involved in the details of discussions in the Framework Convention on Climate Change, but we do expect the Security Council to keep the matter under continuous review so as to ensure that all countries contribute to solving the climate change problem and that their efforts are commensurate with their resources and capacities. We also expect that the Security Council will review particularly sensitive issues, such as implications to sovereignty and to international legal rights from the loss of land, resources and people.

The President: I now call on the representative of Japan.

Mr. Oshima (Japan): I would like to begin by thanking you, Madam, and the delegation of the United Kingdom for the important initiative you have taken of organizing this timely debate on the security implications of climate change and global warming, and I thank you as well for the excellent concept paper that was presented.

We are aware that this is the first time that the Security Council has held a thematic debate on this topic. Scientists and economists around the world have once again — more clearly and convincingly than ever before — drawn our attention to what is, without a doubt, one of the most imminent, serious and multifaceted risks and challenges confronting all of humanity. Given the rapid advances that have been made in research on climate change and its impact on the global ecosystem, and in the light of the facts and the prognosis presented to us by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Stern review team and many others, it would be not only foolhardy but also highly irresponsible if we failed to move on from discussing science to practical planning, strategizing and taking action.

It is clear that climate change can pose threats to national security, including those discussed in the United Kingdom concept paper. National security has been threatened by conflicts over claims to land and natural resources since ancient times. In the foreseeable future, climate change in all its manifestations may well create conditions or induce circumstances that could precipitate or aggravate international conflicts, and it therefore has serious potential national and international security implications.

Also, as noted in the recent IPCC report and other authoritative studies, global warming will generate conditions and circumstances that could have a negative impact on development and poverty reduction strategies in a variety of ways. Food production may be affected, natural disasters may increase in number and intensify, the supply of fresh water may diminish, infectious diseases may become more rampant, and so forth. Clearly, the implications for human security would also be quite serious.

As projected, it is the poor and the weakest of countries and societies that are most vulnerable to the onslaught. The projected rise in sea levels poses an immediate threat to the survival of small island developing States and lowland areas. We must acknowledge the linkages between the new emerging global phenomenon, sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies.

Climate change is a global challenge, and meeting it will require a global response: the concerted efforts of the international community on a number of fronts. In this, the United Nations should continue to play a leading role; indeed, it should play a stronger one by involving all relevant organs and bodies of the system, including the Security Council, as relevant to their respective mandates, because doing so is essential for system-wide coherence on the issue.

Among the many challenges and issues that we face, I would like to note — without going into too much detail — three that require our urgent attention. If fact, they require that we mobilize.

The first is the overriding importance of controlling greenhouse gas emissions and creating an effective post-Kyoto framework. It is of the utmost importance that the maximum number of countries responsible for any significant emissions linked to global warming participate in this effort — and I am speaking of developed and developing countries alike. Currently, only about 30 per cent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions are covered by the parties to the Kyoto Protocol. That is grossly and dangerously inadequate. According to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, emissions of carbon dioxide by developing countries reached 40 per cent of total global emissions in 2004, and if the current trend

continues, by about 2015 the overall total of emissions from developing countries will overtake that of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In our view, any new post-Kyoto arrangement must seek to enable all countries to cut emissions according to their ability, and thus maximize emission controls on a truly global basis, the goal being to halve the level of total emissions as soon as possible. In doing so, we must acknowledge the close linkages that exist between development strategy and climate change strategy.

In this connection, let me mention that on the occasion of the visit by the Premier of China, Mr. Wen Jiabao, to Japan last week, Japan and China issued a statement on the further enhancement of cooperation in the area of environmental protection. In it, they expressed their shared intention to work together on the issue under discussion, stating

> "Under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, both sides reaffirm their political resolve to engage in efforts towards the resolution of climate change issues through international cooperation, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities ... . Both sides will actively participate in the process towards the construction of an effective beyond-2012 framework, based on the principles and regulations set forth in the above-mentioned Convention and Protocol."

The second challenge is supporting the development and use of clean energy, including nuclear or renewable energy, and new, effective energy-saving technologies. This is obviously an essential part of any effort to reduce the level of greenhouse gases. Cooperation and exchanges on such technology at all levels — bilateral, regional and international — should be strengthened. United Nations agencies have an important role to play in that regard, including facilitation of the transfer of advanced clean-energy and energy-saving technologies to developing countries, which should be encouraged in any way possible.

The third, related, challenge, which is no less important, are issues regarding adaptation — preventing, mitigating and adapting to the negative effects of climate change, especially those arising from natural disasters. The Stern review states that "the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the ... costs". Such action needs to be taken now, because we cannot ignore the fact that global warming, with all its potential harmful consequences, is here to stay and will get worse before it can get better. Governments set out what needs to be done to reduce vulnerabilities and disaster risks in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, agreed at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005. Governments need to take urgent action to simultaneously reduce the emissions causing climate change and adapt to the changes that are unavoidable by implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.

In order to deal with these and other issues surrounding climate change and global warming, it is time for Member States to take a look at how comprehensively — or how inadequately — the United Nations system is equipped. We welcome the intention of Secretary-General Ban to make climate change one of his priorities. Indeed, we will welcome any initiative that he takes that helps to strengthen the United Nations role and enhance its agenda in that area. To that end, I would like to propose that the Secretary-General be requested — perhaps not by the Council but, more appropriately, by the General Assembly — to make a report with recommendations at the earliest possible date on how best the United Nations system as a whole can organize itself to strengthen its capacity so that it will be able to address this matter more effectively and coherently. The report should address such questions as the role and function of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which is responsible for coordination of disaster prevention and mitigation.

Before concluding, I would like to state that Japan is strongly resolved to continue its active engagement in all international efforts on climate change-related issues, both in the United Nations and outside it, including negotiations for a new, post-Kyoto greenhouse gas emissions regime.

Climate change will be one of the main themes at this year's Group of Eight (G-8) Summit, to be held in Germany, and it is expected to remain high on the agenda next year, 2008, when Japan will host the G-8 Summit. In its bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and partnership arrangements with the countries of Asia and the Pacific including the Pacific Islands Forum, Africa, the Caribbean Community and

others, Japan has accorded high priority to projects and programmes aimed at preventing, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. In the future, it will give them even more attention.

Allow me to say a few words about the form such cooperation and partnership has taken, or will take in the future. Japan, together with the United States, China, India, the Republic of Korea and Australia, established the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. At the Second East Asia Summit, held at Cebu in the Philippines, Prime Minister Abe announced Japan's cooperation initiative for clean energy and sustainable growth for the East Asia region.

Japan has promoted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, which focused greater attention on energy and environmental issues, as well as on adaptation to the effects of global warming, in the context of sustainable development in Africa, through the holding of a ministerial conference in Nairobi in March.

Japan attaches high priority to disaster prevention, especially the steps proposed in the Hyogo Framework of Action, and it supports the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Japan also contributes to multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Finally, we continue to be closely involved in programmes that focus on water and sanitation, including through participation in bilateral aid programmes and the United Nations Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Namibia, to whom I have pleasure in giving the floor.

Mr. Mbuende (Namibia): My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and with the statement to be delivered by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation recognizes that threats to peace and security emanate from different sources. Poverty and unemployment can give rise to instability that threatens peace and security. Underdevelopment and global economic imbalances can create tensions among nations that could threaten international peace and security.

Non-traditional threats to peace and security, however, can best be addressed through the appropriate organs charged with the responsibility to take remedial action in a particular area. The Charter of the United Nations recognizes the link between social and economic development — or, rather, the lack thereof — and peace and security. It was against this background that the Economic and Social Council was created with a view to addressing these issues. Threats to peace and security that emanate from social and economic factors can best be addressed through investments in economic development. By the same token, threats to international peace and security emanating from climate change and global warming can best be addressed through interventions in the environmental arena. There are indeed a host of instruments designed to deal with environmental problems before they get out of hand — or, rather, to stop further deterioration.

We are taking part in this debate today because of the seriousness with which we view the phenomenon of climate change. This is not an academic exercise but rather a matter of life or death for my country, Namibia.

Humanity, and the developing countries in particular, have been subjected to what could be described as low-intensity biological or chemical warfare. Greenhouse gases are slowly destroying plants, animals and human beings. A large part of Namibia is today subjected to frequent droughts while, at the same time, another part is flooded. The combined effect of drought and floods has had a tremendous impact on our biodiversity. Namibia has two deserts, the Namib in the west and the Kalahari in the east. These deserts are spreading, claiming more and more range and agricultural land and rendering these lands uninhabitable.

Another characteristic of climate change that is becoming evident in Namibia is the spread of malaria to areas hitherto considered free of the disease. Historically, this disease was prevalent in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country only because the central and southern parts had colder temperatures. However, with the change in temperatures, malaria-carrying mosquitoes have extended their range to nearly everywhere in the country and are spreading the disease. Meanwhile, our fight against malaria is

hindered by the high cost of medicines. Our attempts to produce cheaper generics have been met with resistance, as multinational pharmaceutical companies invoke their intellectual property rights. The impact of climate change on health is further exacerbated by the fact that some plants that were used for traditional medicinal purposes are likely to be extinct.

We cannot talk about climate change in a casual manner, and it cannot be business as usual. The cause of the problem is known. Those who are responsible for the problem are also known. Now is the time to hold them accountable for their action. They cannot be allowed to escape with impunity.

There is a need to take drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The economic argument that these measures will be costly does not hold water. For the continuation of the status quo is also costly to those who, though not responsible for global warming, suffer its consequences. However, we are encouraged by the steps that some industrialized countries are taking. But is it not too little, too late? Still, every step to curb emissions is important.

Climate adaptation will be a costly exercise for Namibia. The people of my country, like those of many other developing countries, are dependent on natural resources. However, these resources are being destroyed by a combination of droughts, wildfires and floods. Namibia had placed high hopes in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. These two instruments contain a number of commitments by States parties. If fully honoured, they could have assisted us tremendously in our endeavours to reverse this ruinous phenomenon.

It saddens us that, despite elaborate paragraphs and wording in both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, what we have been witnessing is the continuation of a business-as-usual attitude. Indeed, as developing countries, we are facing what I dare to call an unprovoked war being waged on us by developed countries. In fact, what we see happening is a concrete example of the proverbial discarding one's dirty water in the backyard of one's neighbour.

Despite long-standing treaty commitments to help poor countries deal with global warming, the industrial Powers are spending very little on ways to limit climate and coastal hazards in the world's most vulnerable regions compared to what they are spending on securing their own continued survival. How many more conventions and protocols does the international community require before drastic measures are taken to address the issues of climate change in earnest?

Kyoto 2 will probably come and go, and so will Kyoto 3 and 4, while our peoples and countries are rendered more and more vulnerable. What we need is action now and not mere debates that do not produce concrete results. In this regard, my delegation would like to see the establishment of an effective mechanism to take charge of the governance of climate change. We have in mind a mechanism that will monitor and ensure the compliance of States parties with the provisions of the instruments they have acceded to and their fulfilment of the commitments contained therein. Namibia intends to make this recommendation in the appropriate organs.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on the list for this meeting. I intend, with the concurrence of members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.20 p.m.

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5663rd meeting
Tuesday, 17 April 2007, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Beckett/Sir Emyr Jones Parry/Ms. Pierce	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Belle
	China	Ms. Bai Yongjie
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	France	Mr. Pic
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Budiman
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Doig
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Chulkov
	Slovakia	Mr. Smetana
	South Africa	Ms. Zia
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

Letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/186)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-30973 (E)

The meeting was resumed at 3.15 p.m.

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Comoros and Mauritius, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took their seats at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I would like to remind all speakers, as was indicated at the morning meeting, that they should limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the representative of Barbados.

Mr. Hackett (Barbados): Madam President, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, I wish to convey to you our deepest appreciation for the important leadership role that the United Kingdom has played, and continues to play, in heightening global awareness of the imminent dangers posed by climate change, as well as your Government's efforts at forging an urgent and coordinated response to this looming global disaster.

We bear witness to one of the greatest and most serious environmental and development challenges in the history of humankind — namely, controlling and coping with climate change. As a country caught squarely in the crosshairs of this global emergency, we are ever conscious of the enormous challenges posed to our sustainable development by climate change and its attendant impact.

Developing countries are most vulnerable to climate change, and we are the least able to protect ourselves. For small island developing States, the challenges are even more complex and profound and our needs more urgent. The adverse effects of climate change and associated phenomena, including sea-level rise, the change in behaviour and higher intensity of hurricanes, and the change in frequency and distribution of other extreme events, such as floods and droughts, threaten the very livelihoods and existence of small island developing States, despite the fact that we have contributed only negligibly to the genesis of the problem.

With the recent release of the contributions of Working Groups I and II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is now greater scientific certainty that dangerous climate change is already occurring and that the opportunity to avoid potentially irreversible, unimaginable damage to the climate system will be lost if urgent and ambitious global efforts are not made. As Sir Nicholas Stern puts it, if we continue to ignore climate change, the impact on the global economy will be "on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the twentieth century". And while we might differ on the issues of timing, location and scope, any economic, social, humanitarian and environmental crisis of this magnitude will likely have other unfortunate consequences, including for international peace and security. There is no excuse — scientific or otherwise — to delay immediate action.

As we confront this global crisis, a relevant consideration will be how future generations will judge our response. If we continue to delay action, we will be judged harshly, and deservedly so, for having callously placed their inheritance and future in great jeopardy. For today we might have choices; tomorrow, they will not. Yet despite these sobering realities, there is still a glimmer of hope that if we act rapidly we may soften the blow of this looming climate catastrophe, particularly with respect to the poorest and most vulnerable.

Those who have historically contributed most to the problem have a moral and legal obligation to assume primary responsibility. Developed countries must take the lead in significantly reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and in providing the necessary financial and technological assistance to support the adaptation efforts of developing countries. The Kyoto Protocol should not be abandoned. Those that continue to reject their agreed commitments under

that agreement must exercise good judgement, demonstrate good global citizenship and show the type and quality of leadership exhibited at other seminal moments in history. They must simply do the right thing. For, as former United States President John F. Kennedy once said:

> "Today the eyes of all people are truly upon us — and our Governments, in every branch, at every level, national, state and local, must be as a city upon a hill — constructed and inhabited by men [and women] aware of their great trust and their great responsibilities".

Barbados remains of the view that the international community must attach the highest priority to completing ongoing climate change negotiations within the Framework Convention on Climate Change on a post-2012 arrangement by the end of 2008. Any new global agreement must lead to the achievement of substantial emission reductions in the shortest time frame possible and significantly increase the level of resources available to vulnerable developing countries, particularly small island developing States and least developed countries, to help them adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Barbados believes that this debate in the Security Council should inspire the other principal organs of the United Nations to assume fully their Charter responsibilities in addressing the many dimensions of this problem. While the Framework Convention on Climate Change remains the primary forum for addressing climate change, Barbados wishes to propose that, consistent with General Assembly resolution 61/16, the Economic and Social Council should convene a special session at the foreign-minister level in September this year, on the margins of the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, to discuss the impact of climate change on sustainable development. We believe that such a discussion at the ministerial level would provide much-needed impetus to the negotiations which will take place in Bali, Indonesia, in December.

In closing, I would like to emphasize the need for development partners to join Barbados and the other small island developing States in the full and rapid implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, of which the issues of climate change and energy are important components. Effective implementation of those two international agreements, along with the action taken within the Framework Convention on Climate Change, will significantly assist the small island developing States in coping with the adverse effects of climate change.

The time for rhetoric and gamesmanship is over. We must act boldly, and we must act together to protect our planet for the benefit of future generations.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Ukraine, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Kryzhanivskyi (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to thank the United Kingdom presidency for its very timely and well-prepared initiative to hold an open debate on energy, security and climate. My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union.

I should now like to touch on some additional issues that are of importance to my country.

Our heads of State or Government, at the 2005 World Summit, reaffirmed the emerging common understanding that security and development are closely interlinked and that there can be no security without sound economic systems, fair trade regimes, social welfare and the rule of law. But how can all of these be achieved if forces of nature can easily undermine well-planned human achievements, change the shape of continents and lead to dramatic changes in human habitats?

Science has proved on many occasions that climate change, global warming and pollution may have sudden and dramatic consequences if they are not addressed urgently, properly and effectively. Recent studies on these subjects have provided clear evidence to the international community of their long-term consequences, calling for immediate and decisive action.

Ukraine is firmly committed to international agreements in the area of climate change, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. For my Government, the sustainable use of energy and the protection of the environment are not just empty slogans. A few days from now, we will solemnly commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the worst technological disaster ever faced by humanity. After more than two decades, Ukraine is still dealing

with the grave consequences of contaminated land, the displacement of the population from the exclusion zone, health issues and psychological trauma. All of this, of course, has caused a slowdown in economic development and created vulnerabilities, posing potential risks to society.

Modern industrial development, in particular energy production, is the main source of detrimental effects on the environment. Thus it is crucial that energy, climate change and security be tackled jointly in order to realize the objective of a sustainable environment. We therefore deem it imperative, among other policy prescriptions, to build on appropriate incentives, public-private partnerships, low-carbon-emitting technologies and innovative solutions.

In that respect, my delegation would like in particular to underscore the importance of the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in assessing, compiling and synthesizing scientific, technical and socio-economic data. We are also looking forward to the publication of the 2007 Human Development Report, devoted to the theme of "Climate change and human development — rising to the challenge".

Energy policy and climate change are moving towards the centre of policy-making in many countries. The process implies a multilateral framework, and today's deliberations have corroborated that thesis. In order to achieve the collective objective of combating climate change, we have various extraordinary targets. Achieving those targets will be a significant challenge for a vast majority of countries. It will require the full implementation of domestic greenhouse gas reduction measures and effective use of the flexible mechanisms adopted by international agreements.

We call on all parties involved to contribute generously to the process and to spare no effort in providing assistance and responding with sound national strategies. Ukraine, for its part, is ready to commit itself to implementing and promoting sustainable development as part of our national priorities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Elbakly (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish, on behalf of my delegation, to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom to New York, and to express our pleasure at seeing you, Sir, preside over this meeting. Today's open debate in the Security Council is one means to develop ways for the Council to address important issues, taking into account the views and interests of the entire membership of the United Nations.

While the delegation of Egypt would like to emphasize the importance and timeliness of the theme of today's discussion on energy, security and climate and the powerful and serious impact of climate change on our world, we share with many developing countries the surprise and concern clearly reflected in the letters addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Chairs of the Group of 77 and China and of the Non-Aligned Movement on behalf of the entire membership of both groups, and in the Sudanese statement to be delivered later on behalf of the African Group.

It is obvious that the subject of today's debate lies clearly and squarely within the mandate of other bodies in the United Nations system, in particular the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the machinery of relevant United Nations treaties. This open Security Council debate also coincides with the preparations to address the same subject in the Commission on Sustainable Development later this month, as well as in other international treaty bodies, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, which are key instruments for addressing climate change.

What concerns us more is the deliberate encroachment of the Security Council on the mandates and primary responsibilities of other principal United Nations organs and subsidiary bodies, as defined by the Charter. This reflects clear and deliberate neglect of the provisions of the Charter. We are also concerned by the Council's indifference to the repeated demands of Member States to put an end to this dangerous and unjustified phenomenon. It is a clear challenge to the general membership of the United Nations to leave the way open for every President of the Security Council to decide a theme for an open debate, even if it lies totally beyond the Council's mandate. That makes it all the more important to reform the working methods of

the Security Council and to expand its membership, as well as to ensure that the General Assembly takes more decisive measures to stop such infringement.

The claim that the issue of climate change and energy lies within the mandate of the Security Council, based on its impact on international peace and security, is an exaggerated claim which the Council presidency has sought to buttress through a concept paper (S/2007/186, annex) that seeks to emphasize that all subjects within the domain of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies have an impact on international peace and security, and hence may be seized by the Security Council. Such logic is unacceptable to the States Members of the Organization as it involves encroachment on the mandates and responsibilities of the General Assembly, which, as it represents the entire membership of the United Nations, is more universal and more democratic.

In the light of recent reports and scientific studies and the latest report of the Secretary-General on climate change, there is no room for doubting, arguing against or rejecting the dangers of climate change and its repercussions for humanity. But objectivity requires focusing on the circumstances which led us to this dangerous juncture, and on the proper and ideal manner in which to address it. I will not be saying anything new if I note that the developed countries are responsible for this phenomenon, because they have continued to pour emissions into the upper atmosphere and have failed to fulfil their obligation to rectify the situation and address it according to the provisions of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Thus, the developing countries, including Egypt, view this open Security Council debate as an attempt by the developed countries to shrug off their responsibilities in that regard. The right path to combat this dangerous phenomenon is clear and lies in the fulfilment by all parties — developed and developing — of their commitments according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and not according to the principle of shared responsibilities which some countries are seeking to promote.

Needless to say, addressing this phenomenon effectively requires dealing with its causes and adapting to its adverse effects, especially when we know that the most affected States, in particular the African countries and the small island developing States, produce the smallest quantities of damaging greenhouse gas emissions and are at the same time the least capable of adapting to the negative impact.

In that context, Egypt, as one of the least significant emitters of greenhouse gases, emphasizes the need to address that serious problem from the perspective of the common interest of humanity — and, again, in the proper forum in which all Member States participate — not only from a security perspective, but from the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development. If implemented in the framework of strong and active international cooperation, this would address the security impact referred to in the concept paper.

Finally, the Security Council has before it many other challenges which are more pertinent to the maintenance of international peace and security, which require more attention from the Council, and which lie within, not outside, its main mandate. There is no doubt that achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East lies at the heart of those challenges, along with the implementation of the comprehensive package agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the resolution on the Middle East. The importance of implementing the package and the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament was stressed at the 2000 Review Conference.

We therefore look forward to the nuclear-weapon States — including the United Kingdom — implementing the package and seeking to include it in the agenda of the 2010 Review Conference. This process should begin with the first meetings of the Preparatory Committee this year. There should be no attempt to evade or to change the package in a way that would make it unsuccessful and would only adversely affect international peace and security by endangering the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Those are the issues that we wish to see the Security Council focus on, and that will be met with support from the general membership.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Hill (Australia): Climate change is a serious global challenge for the future. Over coming decades,

climate change will progressively alter biospheres and sea levels, as well as add incrementally to the intensity of climate-related events such as cyclones and droughts. By moving early to address the risks, we could do much to reduce the potential threats to human well-being and security.

Australia is particularly vulnerable to climate change. We occupy the driest inhabited continent, with a highly variable climate and great susceptibility to drought. Shifting rainfall patterns in particular have severe environmental impacts in Australia and damage our agricultural industries.

Global action to mitigate climate change can temper its future impacts. The burden of responsibility falls particularly heavily on the major emitters. Twenty countries are responsible for 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Australia is committed to playing its part. We have already dedicated billions of dollars to develop, prove and deploy low-emissions technologies in Australia. We are supporting more efficient energy use, the uptake of renewable energy and reductions in land clearing. As a result of those and other policies and measures, Australia is tracking well to meet the target it agreed to at Kyoto.

Australia is a founder and major contributor to the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, which aims to develop and spread low-emissions technologies and practices through practical public-private action. We will work with others, through our recently announced Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, to reduce deforestation, which is a source of some 20 per cent of global greenhouse emissions. Australia has pledged $200 million as part of that Initiative.

Australia will also look to other global opportunities to make progress. Our Prime Minister has written to his counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region to put clean development and climate change at the top of the agenda for this year's meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) leaders in September in Sydney. The APEC economies account for 60 per cent of global energy demand and include the world's four largest energy consumers. And we will do more in the future, working internationally in the interests of more effective global mitigation action on climate change. That action must involve all of the major economies. In the actions we take, we must avoid disruption to energy supply, as reliable energy trade is vital to energy security and political security more generally.

A degree of climate change is already inevitable. Action to adapt to the impacts of global warming in the coming years is therefore vital if we are to reduce our exposure to the risks implicit in a changing climate. The anticipated regional variations in those impacts demand that adaptation measures be tailored and localized. For example, Australia has already committed $10 billion to improving the sustainability of water use in Australia and, just last week, the Prime Minister announced an initiative to establish a national centre for climate change adaptation, primarily to study the coastal, regional and atmospheric impacts of climate change in our country.

We will also help others to adapt to the future impacts of climate change, cognizant that the least developed among us are likely to be less able to respond to the impacts of a changing climate. Australia therefore welcomes the multilateral support that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change brings to adaptation.

Our world is dynamic and challenging. Natural disasters have the potential to devastate communities and can threaten the very viability of countries, particularly small island States. Each year, more than 200 million people are affected by disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunami and pandemics. Those disasters are unrelated to climate change, but they do highlight the vulnerability to environmental impacts that all countries face. For that reason, improving resilience to climate-related and other natural disasters must form an integral part of national development strategies.

We encourage all countries to further strengthen their support to disaster mitigation, preparedness and response. We commend the work of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in coordinating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Framework represents a global blueprint for building the resilience of nations and their communities to the impacts of disasters.

This is a different sort of threat to that usually debated in this place. Nevertheless, a failure to act now on climate change would exacerbate the risks in the future, and so a concerted and intensified commitment to both mitigation and adaptation is warranted. The challenge is to find ways to achieve those goals in a

manner that supports economic growth, that is fair and effective, and that recognizes economic disparities. It is in all our interests that we meet this challenge together.

The President: I now call on the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Banks (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes this opportunity to address the Security Council on the important issues of energy, security and climate. We thank the United Kingdom for its initiative in hosting the debate, which in our view is a useful way of drawing further attention to those challenging issues.

New Zealand also welcomes the United Kingdom's concept paper. We urgently need to focus the attention of the international community on some of the most serious implications of climate change. Governments are becoming more aware that the effects of climate change are much more than threats to the environment alone. They also threaten some of the most fundamental needs of our citizens: a safe place to live, access to water, health care and food, and the ability to earn a living. When those needs are threatened, whole societies are at risk of instability. So it is entirely appropriate that we are discussing the security dimensions of climate change in this forum.

New Zealand would like to highlight two themes that are important for us and for our Pacific region.

First, sustainable development, including responses to climate change, and energy security need to be considered together. In New Zealand, we are developing our energy and climate change policies in tandem, including focusing on ways to maximize New Zealand's energy derived from renewable sources and promoting diversity in our energy supply. That will help us to secure a low-emissions energy supply. We recognize that the use of low-emissions technologies and improving energy efficiency are fundamental to industrialized and developing countries alike in reducing carbon emissions and maintaining a secure energy supply for the future. Energy issues are also a major challenge for the Pacific. In recognition of that, Pacific energy ministers will be meeting at the end of April to discuss how the region might address those challenges, particularly in the renewable energy sector.

Secondly, many of the countries in our part of the world, the Pacific, are amongst the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. That is likely to exacerbate issues such as access to fresh water and vulnerability to cyclones, drought or flooding. The Mauritius Implementation Strategy speaks of the existential risks that climate change and sea-level rise pose to small island developing States. It also notes the ongoing threats posed to the sustainable development of those nations and the priority that should be given to adaptation. Those threats, alongside limitations on the capacity of small island developing States to respond, mean that we are already talking about the viability of some societies.

There is an important role for other nations in providing assistance to Pacific and other small island developing States, as well as other vulnerable countries, in evaluating the impacts of and adapting to climate change. Assistance provided by the international community, however, does need to be tailored to different risk and development circumstances and to various national contexts. It should also support the objectives of recipient States themselves in order to ensure local ownership and practical results. For example, the Government of Kiribati has made climate change adaptation a central priority, and New Zealand is pleased to help support its adaptation programme.

While climate change presents all of us with daunting challenges, there are solutions. Above all, this debate is a timely reminder of the need for effective concerted international action within the United Nations framework. We need a process that brings the major emitters of greenhouse gases together in the United Nations to forge a truly global response to climate change.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tuvalu.

Mr. Pita (Tuvalu): Tuvalu fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific island countries and Pacific small island developing States.

Tuvalu is greatly honoured to have been given this golden opportunity to speak in the Security Council. First, I must thank you, Mr. President, and your Government, for your wisdom in calling for this special open debate of the Council on the theme of energy, security and climate.

At the sixtieth anniversary General Assembly in 2005, as on many other occasions here at the United Nations, the Government of Tuvalu highlighted the

issue of environmental security, particularly in relation to climate change. We are extremely grateful to see that this concern is now on the agenda of the Security Council. We strongly believe that the Security Council should permanently place the issue of climate change and environmental security on its agenda, just as it wisely decided to do in 2000 with regard to the issue of the security threat posed by HIV/AIDS.

As is well known, this is a topic of extreme importance to a small, atoll nation like Tuvalu. The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change further highlighted the extreme vulnerability of island countries like Tuvalu to the impact of climate change and the urgent necessity for global actions to address their vulnerability.

We face many threats associated with climate change. Ocean warming is changing the very nature of our island nation. Our coral reefs are slowly dying through coral bleaching, we are witnessing changes to fish stocks and we face the increasing threat of more severe cyclones. Given that our highest point is four metres above sea level, the threat of severe cyclones is extremely disturbing to us, and severe water shortages will further threaten the livelihood of people in many islands.

Our livelihood is already threatened by sea-level rise, and the implications for our long-term security are very disturbing. Many have spoken about the possibility of migrating from our homeland. If that becomes a reality, then we will be faced with an unprecedented threat to our nationhood; it would be an infringement of our fundamental rights to nationality and statehood as constituted under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions.

But Tuvalu is not alone in facing the threat of climate change. Many millions of people will suffer the effects. The world has moved from a global threat called the cold war to what should now be considered the "warming war". Our conflict is not being fought with guns and missiles but with weapons from everyday life — chimney stacks and exhaust pipes.

We are confronted with a chemical war of immense proportions. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom correctly underscored during the most recent general debate in the General Assembly, "if we all try to freeride, we will all end up in free fall" (A/61/PV.16, p. 20) as a result of the impact of climate change.

With regard to energy, it is clear from the ongoing world crisis that the security dimensions of access to and use of sources of energy must be addressed. The world needs a mix of energy sources that is easily accessible for all countries and communities. Tuvalu's own security is also threatened by the high cost of its energy supply. Importing fossil fuels into Tuvalu to provide fuel for electricity generation and inter-island transport is one of the greatest drains on our economy, using funds which could otherwise have been saved for climate change adaptation. Our economic sustainability is contingent on our acquiring self-sustaining and reliable renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. We humbly call upon the Security Council to understand and respond to these new concepts of security and conflict.

Tuvalu joined the United Nations on 5 September 2000, firmly believing in its noble pillars of development, security and human rights as the source of security against the very threat of climate change. By virtue of this membership, our security concerns relating to climate change cannot be simply ignored. The Security Council must consider the threat to our national security and, ultimately, to global security, from a new perspective. We are a peace-loving nation and have no army. We will pose no security threat even if we face the full consequences of climate change; but we must not disappear from the Security Council radar screen. As the great Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

Through you, Mr. President, we therefore beseech the Security Council to act urgently to address the threats to our national security. We would respectfully like to make four concrete suggestions. First, we believe that the real and serious threat posed by climate change demands that solutions and decisions be taken at the highest level of Government. As in General Assembly debates, we strongly encourage the Security Council to adopt a resolution to urge the Secretary-General to convene a world leaders' summit on climate change as soon as possible.

Secondly, such a summit should create the impetus to establish a new economic forum to dramatically boost access to environmentally friendly energy security options for all the nations of the world. In this context, however, nuclear and clean fossil fuel cannot be part of the solution for Tuvalu and many small island developing States, considering the security risks to our fragile environments. It is our humble view

that the rapid development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies must be the primary focus of an energy security agenda. These have the benefits of creating energy self-sufficiency, reducing poverty and making a major contribution to mitigating climate change.

Thirdly, there is an urgent need to build strong institutional arrangements to protect and restore vulnerable countries like Tuvalu from the impact of climate change. We need a global strategy on adaptation and disaster-risk reduction, which should include new insurance facilities. Those could be key themes for consideration at the proposed summit on climate change.

Finally, we strongly encourage the Security Council to review its Charter obligations and to fully embrace the concept of environmental security within its mandate. This is not simply a matter of identifying trouble spots where armed conflict may be linked to environmental decline. We believe that the Security Council should address environmental decline as a security issue in itself.

As former Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan stated at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Nairobi, "The question is not whether climate change is happening or not, but whether [...] we ourselves can change fast enough".

The Security Council must provide the much-needed impetus for that timely change to address climate change. Tuvalu looks forward to the ongoing considerations of this agenda item and sincerely hopes that the Security Council can find a meaningful way to address the security concerns of extremely vulnerable countries like Tuvalu. My delegation fully supports the United Kingdom's proposal on climate change before the Security Council.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Sorcar (Bangladesh): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council.

My delegation broadly associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The issues of energy and the environment are of critical importance in the context of sustainable development — even more so for developing countries. The development aspect has been thoroughly deliberated on by an extensive range of actors, particularly within the United Nations. The security implications of global climate change, however, have not merited consideration by intergovernmental bodies like the United Nations, although they have, for more than a decade now, been considered outside the Organization. They have been the subject of research, using a variety of scenarios and models, by a wide range of institutions from academia to think tanks and beyond. The United Kingdom presidency has definitely taken a bold step in attempting to explore whether the energy-climate-security nexus is mature enough for intergovernmental deliberations. We believe, however, that this is still primarily an issue of development, although the security ramifications can no longer be dismissed. It is becoming increasingly apparent that global climate change has the potential to turn out to be a major security concern only if we, through our apathy and inaction, fail to deal with climate change as a sustainable development issue.

While the interrelationship among energy, climate and security is being examined, there is little doubt that the global climate is changing, relentlessly and inexorably. The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change shows that, unless very drastic measures are taken, humanity will have to face unprecedented challenges of an inconceivable magnitude. No country will be spared from the adverse effects of climate change, though some will be disproportionately affected. Populous and underdeveloped countries, particularly those that are geographically disadvantaged, will be the hardest hit.

The projection for Bangladesh is ominous, to say the least. The country is basically a vast river delta, indeed the largest in the world. It is cleaved by two of the mightiest rivers — the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. These rivers and their thousands of distributaries shape the destiny of Bangladesh's 147 million people. With warming weather, the Himalayan snow will melt and torrential waters will flow down from the north, inundating the flat alluvial plain. With a rising sea level, saline water will flow up from the south, and meet the melting mountains. Millions of people will be caught in between with nowhere to go.

What might come next will need some imagination. But even the mere possibility of such an unthinkable event is sufficient reason to seriously look for ways to prevent a future that none of us will be able to handle.

Bangladesh will not be the only country affected by global climate change, although it will be one of the worst affected. The increasing surface and ocean temperature will lead to evaporation and more rainfall around the world, thereby giving rise to widespread floods. Extreme weather events, such as droughts, hurricanes and tornadoes, will occur more frequently and with increased intensity. No one can fight the wrath of nature, however much he may be endowed with resources. But human wisdom and action can perhaps prevent some extreme weather events, particularly if the instability of nature is man-made.

We already know what action we need to take to prevent the looming global catastrophe. We have examined this situation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Regrettably, we have not moved into timely action and have failed to meet the deadline. We now need to urgently look for mechanisms, institutions and consensus-building processes that will motivate us to combine our forces to avoid a horrendous future of our own creation. We hope that the recent report of the IPCC will be instrumental in overcoming our inertia and will trigger a cascade of actions that is long overdue.

We welcome the proposed world summit on climate change and encourage the Secretary-General to explore its possibilities. A world summit will give us opportunity to take a fresh look at what our common and differentiated responsibilities are. Demonstrable progress and leadership is required from industrialized countries, particularly in providing reassurance that low carbon emissions will not be obtained at the cost of development. We stand ready to join in a global consensus which will shape the destiny of our present and future generations.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Venezuela.

Ms. Leong (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our delegation would like to wish the United Kingdom every success in its delicate mission of chairing the Security Council during this month of April. Our delegation would also like to associate itself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement that will be made by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is aware of the serious implications for humanity of the problem of climate change, given its economic, social and political repercussions, particularly for the developing countries, which are the most vulnerable. However, we feel that the Security Council is not the appropriate body to deal with the subject of climate change, just as it is not the appropriate body to deal with energy.

The Security Council should frame its actions in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations, by adopting the strictest interpretation of what really constitutes a threat to international peace and security, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter. Venezuela considers the multidimensional character of security to mean that each sovereign and legitimate State defines its priorities in this area on the basis of its own national needs and interests, as has been recognized in various international instruments. Additionally, we feel that the subject of energy is an area falling strictly under the sovereignty of States as part of their national development policies. Venezuela reaffirms that every country, on the basis of its sovereignty, has the authority to decide on the use of its natural resources and to set its own environmental and energy policy.

The interference of the Security Council in areas that are not part of its mandate could have adverse effects, since the measures that may be suggested in this body would not be the most appropriate to provide solutions to problems of an economic, social and environmental kind affecting all Member States.

Bringing before this body matters that are not part of its specific remit in the area of international peace and security could give rise to the illusion that this body is a democratic one, discussing subjects of global interest, when that is far from the case. Venezuela would advocate a real democratization of this body, but this exercise is not the best way to achieve that objective, especially when the subjects are not part of the agenda of the Council but, on the contrary, already have their own forums in which they can be discussed.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, to both of

which the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a contracting party, have the proper mechanisms for examining the issue of climate change. Dealing with that group of problems outside the proper bodies for discussion of them could diffuse and complicate international efforts. Doing so could also be understood as an effort to dilute the responsibilities of developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. The search for appropriate solutions to the problem of global warming requires that the principal emitters of these gases meet their obligations in accordance with relevant international instruments.

Here, the committed cooperation of the United States — a permanent member of the Security Council — whose economy produces the greatest quantity of greenhouse gas emissions, is indispensable if a real contribution is to be made to the objectives of the Convention and its Protocol.

The threats posed by climate change are indubitably associated with the neoliberal model of development that some societies of the industrialized world have tried to promote as a paradigm across the planet without measuring the environmental consequences of the consumption patters arising from that model. Climate change is a problem that affects all countries, small and large, rich and poor.

However, bearing in mind Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992, Venezuela considers that, while there is a joint responsibility relating to the agreements and arrangements of an inclusive nature to mitigate the impact of climate change, there is also a differentiated responsibility to take into account the factors that since the Industrial Revolution have led to such degradation of the environment, as well as States' response capability to face the challenge of the problems.

To Venezuela, it is a source of concern that we are trying to promote partial solutions or stereotypes on the causes of the problem, which end up distorting its nature and scope, including possible measures to mitigate its real effects. It is therefore essential that studies are carried out through the mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Protocol, in order to make it possible to determine the real dimensions of the problem and the possible measures to counteract its impact on all States, particularly on the developing and more vulnerable countries, such as the small island developing States.

Dealing with the problem of climate change requires that the countries that produce the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions fully assume their responsibilities with regard to the need to reduce those concentrations of gases in the atmosphere to a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, in conformity with article 2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Although Venezuela does not have reduction commitments and its emissions account for only 0.48 per cent of global emissions, the national authorities of Venezuela, as part of an integrated environmental policy, have adopted a series of initiatives in this area

In June 2006, President Hugo Chávez Frías launched a programme known as Misión Arbol — the tree mission — which aims to promote the reforestation of 150,000 hectares by planting 100 million trees within the space of five years. As part of this environmental effort, in November 2006 the Government of Venezuela began another initiative called Misión Energía — the energy mission — with the aim of promoting rational use of energy in Venezuela over the next five years.

Both the phenomenon of climate change and the energy issue should be considered in the context of the mechanisms established in accordance with the appropriate arrangements or forums. Venezuela reserves its position as to the appropriateness of the Security Council becoming involved in the consideration of these matters and considers it to be of fundamental importance that this body keeps strictly to the matters conferred to it under the United Nations Charter.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the strengthening of multilateralism as a mechanism to implement effective cooperation for development will be able to promote an international system that is transparent, inclusive and showing solidarity and which offers greater well-being and social justice to the peoples of the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamad (Sudan): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group in the Security Council's open debate on energy, security and climate change. The African Group aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The African Group expresses its concern regarding the decision of the Security Council to hold an open debate on issues that do not fall within the Council's mandate. The United Nations Charter has made it explicitly clear that issues related to social and economic development remain the domain of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

The Group also stresses that the increasing and alarming encroachment of the Security Council on the mandates of other United Nations bodies — which the Security Council tries to justify by linking all issues to the question of security — compromises the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and is also undermining the relevant bodies. This situation is even more alarming, since it is taking place at a time when the process of system-wide coherence is gaining momentum within the Organization.

The African Group cautions against attempts to shift matters of interest of all Member States to a body where a few members of the United Nations have been vested with the power to take final decisions.

The African Group's statement today serves to underscore that those issues do not fall within the mandate of the Security Council. Energy and climate change are both development issues and, as such, should be tackled within the parameters of development and the impediments to its achievement, and should be addressed by the relevant specialized mandated organs of the United Nations, not the Security Council.

The African Group considers that if concerns and challenges arising from climate change and energy are more profound now than before, particularly in Africa, the fundamental reason for it is the lack of fulfilment of commitments and the absence of concrete actions, in particular on the part of developed countries, to tackle the adverse effects related to these respective issues. Developed countries should honour the commitments they have made during the major United Nations conferences and summits in economic and related fields by providing, especially to Africa, the most vulnerable continent, adequate and predictable resources and environmentally sound technology and by providing access to energy, including through the promotion of foreign direct investments in the energy sector in Africa.

The African Group emphasizes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol are binding multilateral agreements and offer sufficient provisions for actions needed to address risks associated with climate change on a global level. Thus, the solution to such constraints resides in a broader adherence to those agreements and, most importantly, in the fulfilment, especially by developed countries, of all commitments, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention, particularly the Rio Principles specifying common but differentiated responsibilities.

Finally, the African Group hopes that the decision by the Council to hold this debate on the issue of energy and climate change does not constitute a precedent, since the Council is not the appropriate body to deal with such themes.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands): Mr. President, my delegation first of all wishes to associate itself with the statement presented by the representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Island small island developing States. Solomon Islands, a small island developing State with least developed country status, thanks you most sincerely for organizing this meeting. This action alone demonstrates how seriously your country is in taking the lead to address the adverse effects of climate change.

Countries such as mine, located in a disaster-prone region, bear the brunt of climate change on a daily basis. Climate change has redefined our subsistence economy and our traditional lifestyle; it has caused irreversible damage to our fragile ecosystem and the mainstay of our economies in agriculture and fisheries. It has pushed back the gains in development by 10 years. Schools and clinics that were painstakingly built over the years can be washed away by a tsunami in a matter of minutes, thus increasing the insecurity of our children and future generations.

Solomon Islands views climate change not only as a development issue but also as one of security. We feel that all principal organs of the United Nations should be seized of the issue, given this phenomenon's growing threat to the globe. It is an issue of survival, especially for small island developing States. In this regard, we are participating in this debate, and we look to the United Nations for leadership to garner the necessary international support in order to act

collectively to address environmental issues on all fronts. Today we are aware of the acceleration of environmental degradation and its effect on climate change, although their correction is a much slower process.

More people die from the effects of climate change than from domestic and international wars put together. The frequency and intensity of cyclones, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and droughts have increased globally. The 2004 Asian tsunami claimed too many lives in just a few hours. Two weeks ago, my country, Solomon Islands, was not spared. A tsunami claimed more than 50 lives, environmentally displaced 5,000 people and forever restructured the geography of the affected areas. All this occurred within minutes. As I speak, Solomon Islands is dealing with environmental refugees who are fleeing their locations, because portions of the islands have sunk. On other islands, reefs and coasts have risen up to 3 to 10 metres — not centimetres, but metres. Fishing grounds have shifted, reefs have been lost, coastal infrastructure has been damaged and water and agriculture have been disrupted, which could well be fanning the flames for future conflicts?

For a country in which more than 80 per cent of the land is owned under a customary regime, any relocation has an impact on the land-tenure system; if not handled well, the changes could fuel future conflicts. Today we are accommodating the internal movement of people. Soon it will spill over into the international scene, where environmental victims will not be refugees, but survivors. That fact will redefine the pattern and push factors of migration. We should not wait for that day to happen.

Solomon Islands, as delegates are aware, just came out of an ethnic conflict some five years ago. This is a complex situation for half a million people who speak 80 different languages and are successfully going through a nation-building process with regional and international support.

Addressing climate change is a conflict prevention imperative, given the aforementioned argument.

The United Nations and its Member States exist for one another. But, unfortunately, on the issue of climate change — despite its global impact — we remain divided on adopting a common approach to addressing it as a development or security issue. Currently the issue of climate change is discussed — like a comet — in a substantial way once every four to five years through a conference; and annually through the Commission on Sustainable Development process, for two weeks. After that, the issue is revisited after a 12-month period. No organ deals with it year-round. That is because, since the inception of the United Nations climate change process, the issue has received divided attention from the global community. Conferences had to be organized to get the issue of the environment on the radar screen; as soon as such conferences come to a close, it disappears again.

If we are indeed serious in addressing our environmental challenges, we must give climate change as much attention and commitment as we give to issues such as terrorism. The wider United Nations system must structurally respond to the call — not only the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but the Security Council as well. The issue of the environment needs to be depoliticized; we need to close the divide that exists; we must build bridges and streamline our common commitment in implementing agreed international climate change frameworks. These agreements have not been matched by resources for the small island developing States. The Mauritius Strategy will remain a strategy unless it is financially supported.

Energy remains an important link to today's debate. It could provide some answers in terms of cleaning up our atmosphere and addressing our security concerns. In the case of Solomon Islands, fossil-fuel imports account for a third of our national budget — just to provide energy to 20 per cent of the population. We are aware of the potential of renewable energy. With the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies, especially community-based hydro schemes, we will be in a position to reach the wider population and, most important, free up resources from the national budget to meet our other commitments related to the Millennium Development Goals, including empowering ourselves to adapt to our environment.

We need to establish a renewable energy trust fund targeting the small island developing States if we are to make any meaningful changes. More important, the United Nations will be able successfully to impose environmental governance only if it changes and adopts an economically based, people-centred rural community approach, because the resources, the coasts and everything else belongs to the people. The concept of carbon credits must receive international support.

Mr. President, I will close by thanking your Government for the assistance it has rendered in connection with the recent tsunami in Solomon Islands. I extend my gratitude also to two other permanent members of the Council, France and the United States. I also thank other Members, including Turkey and Singapore. I include also my own immediate neighbours Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu, which have also bilaterally supported us, and our Pacific neighbours in general.

The President: I call on the representative of Palau.

Mr. Beck (Palau): We wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

We salute the United Kingdom for having proposed this open debate on the security implications of climate change. As a small island State, Palau is particularly challenged by sea-level rise. Furthermore, Palau wishes to call to the attention of this body an equally daunting risk posed by warming which is not specifically identified in the concept paper and which requires the urgent attention of the world community.

Stated plainly, global warming threatens to destroy the world's coral reefs. In 1998, the warming incident known as El Niño caused the bleaching and death of almost one third of Palau's corals. Certain particularly sensitive species were virtually eliminated.

The destruction of the coral reefs is tantamount to the destruction of the country. The reefs are central to Palau's economy, which relies almost exclusively on tourism. The reefs are vital to Palau's food security. Without them, the people will not have the fish to feed themselves or the money to buy food. For over 3,000 years, Palauans have survived by fishing on and around their coral reefs. Climate change now threatens those reefs with increased acidification, rising temperatures, fiercer storms and accelerating sea-level rise. The destruction of the reefs will lead, inevitably, to the migration of the people and to the end of their culture.

Coral reef ecosystems are vital not only to Palau but to scores of States. The reefs provide one quarter of the fish catch in developing countries and feed more than one billion people. Their destruction will pose a threat to every country to which former fishermen and their families will migrate.

We applaud the United Kingdom for having convened this proceeding and for raising the profile of this issue, as well as for its support of the influential Stern review, among other things. We are grateful to the United States and the European Union for their efforts to ensure that coral bleaching was addressed during recent deliberations on the General Assembly's important oceans resolution. We applaud the Government of France for its leadership in creating the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific, and all other nations which have addressed the threats to coral reefs.

We call upon the international community to squarely address reef destruction and ameliorate the damage already done, as a matter of great urgency.

The President: I call on the representative of Denmark.

Mr. Staur (Denmark): Let me first of all fully align Denmark with the European Union statement delivered this morning by the German presidency of the European Union.

Denmark sees today's discussion as a very welcome opportunity to consider the link between security and climate change. Climate-related resource shortages are well-recognized and powerful drivers of conflict, the situation in Darfur being a forceful reminder thereof. We are also beginning to realize how climate change in the broader sense threatens to undermine some Governments' ability to ensure security and stability.

We would like to commend the Security Council for having taken on the responsibility of discussing this wider concept of security early on. We trust that this debate will serve to attract much-needed attention to the issue and that by no means will it preclude discussion — and, more important, of course, action — in a wide range of forums outside the Council.

Denmark will host the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to take place in 2009. It is our aim to work with all our international partners to ensure that agreement is reached on a future climate agreement at that meeting. If we miss this goal, it will be difficult to launch a successor to the Kyoto Protocol in 2012, when its first commitment period comes to an end.

For a future climate agreement to be effective, we must take a comprehensive look at the climate challenge. Here the link between climate, energy and security is crucial.

In a recent study prepared for the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, these links are clearly highlighted. The study makes it clear that the issue of climate change is still a low priority compared to other global challenges such as terrorism, poverty and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Climate change must be treated in line with other major global threats in order to prevent very serious consequences from occurring. Climate change may undermine the carrying capacity of many developing countries, exacerbate tensions over scarce water resources and fertile land, lead to an increasing number of environmental refugees, drive conflict over strategic trade routes and newly accessible resources, and lead to territorial loss. It is therefore crucial to acknowledge the security implications of climate change. That will allow us to raise awareness and to mobilize the political will to address this challenge. Like others, we very much welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to make climate change one of his priorities.

Climate change is a complex issue, and there is no silver bullet to fix it. Traditional security policy instruments cannot mitigate climate change, therefore we must take quick and decisive action to mitigate it while at the same time adapting to it in developed as well as in developing countries. In particular, we must assist developing countries to build capacity to deal with security threats from climate-induced degradation and potential tension over scarce resources.

The challenge to change from carbon-based economies to something still unknown is a tremendous one. But we all have to accept this challenge. The recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provide a strong basis for action, and the international community must respond accordingly. The direction is given. We all have to muster the political will to make the tough decisions necessary. The debate today is part of this process.

The President: I call next on the representative of Iceland.

Mr. Hannesson (Iceland): Thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important and relevant open debate on energy, security and climate. I thank you also for your concept paper (S/2007/186), and I will try to focus on the issues raised in the questions for discussion.

The fact that development and the fight against poverty are important aspects of security has been recognized globally. It is clear to all that there will be no security without development and there will be no development without security.

Increasingly, we have become aware of the seriousness of climate change with regard to the security and well-being of mankind. The latest evidence was presented in the report "Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability", released in Brussels earlier this month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). From that report it is clear that climate change will hit the poorest hardest. We can expect more extreme weather events, glaciers will melt and the sea level will rise. There will be more severe droughts, and floods and desertification will increase. We have clear evidence of climate change in my own country, where glaciers in the highlands are shrinking fast.

Prior to taking up my post here in New York I was Ambassador to Canada and had the good fortune to travel widely in Canada's high north. The Inuit in Nunavut complained about the melting of the ice in places where they used to travel. Now there is open water there, and they have to go great distances on land instead of being able to take the direct routes on ice across fjords.

One does not need to be posted a long time here at the United Nations before it becomes abundantly clear that for a number of Member States, especially small island States, climate change with rising sea levels is the greatest threat to their security.

Mr. President, Iceland agrees with your analysis that climate change is a serious security issue. In the longer run, increased migration and diminishing natural resources, especially food and fresh water, will bring increased risks of border disputes and regional, national and ethnic power struggles. In the shorter run, the highest risks are related to access to secure supplies of energy.

If climate change is to be effectively slowed and eventually halted, and if its effects, particularly in developing countries, are to be mitigated, then wide-ranging and long-term international cooperation is the

only course open. But we are not fully succeeding through our international cooperation. Perhaps it is because we have been treating climate change principally as an environmental issue. At best we recognize its socio-economic implications. But with this open debate in the Security Council, climate change is finally being recognized for what it is: climate change is a significant security issue that requires the highest attention of world leaders.

I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for giving this issue the prominence it deserves on his list of priorities. We share the view that it is not too late to take concrete action to avoid the worst consequences. The next 20 years are crucial. If we act quickly and effectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we will have taken significant steps towards saving millions from suffering and conflict in the future.

The scale of the problem is such that a solution will need the commitment of every Member State. Iceland, as a party to the Kyoto Protocol, is fully committed to doing its part. Our view is that we need to negotiate further commitments for the years beyond 2012. Iceland has recently adopted a new climate-change strategy, with a vision to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 75 per cent by 2050. That vision will be realized only through dedicated domestic action in all major sectors and in the context of a comprehensive international agreement.

However, mitigation measures should not hinder development, for which increased energy consumption is crucial. The focus must be on alternative energy resources. Renewable energy resources have an important role to play. Within the lifetime of one generation, my country has moved from being largely dependent on coal and oil to fulfilling 70 per cent of our total energy needs from renewable resources, and a remarkable 100 per cent of our electricity production is based on clean and sustainable energy. We can do even more, and we are exploring new technologies, including the use of hydrogen in transportation, to increase still further the share of renewable energy in our energy profile.

Today, many developing countries rely heavily on imported fossil fuels. By increasing their use of renewable energy, developing countries will be in a position to use their own resources, which will provide secure access to energy. We strongly believe that our experience with alternative energy sources is transferable. Indeed, hundreds of experts from developing countries in all continents have graduated from the United Nations Geothermal Training Programme, which was established in Iceland three decades ago, and most of them are now playing leading roles in the exploitation of geothermal resources in their home countries. Iceland has built up a leading position in the harnessing of geothermal energy, and our energy companies are now involved in various projects in Europe, Asia, the United States and other parts of the world.

There are many possibilities to be developed to ensure a sustainable energy supply. Through our development cooperation strategy, we will continue to focus on sustainable development and on the sustainable utilization of natural resources, including through strengthening the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme by enabling it to admit more students and by setting up training courses in developing countries. We have also strengthened collaboration with international institutions, including the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank, in the field of renewable energy and in increased emphasis on development cooperation with small island developing States.

We thank the United Kingdom again for its initiative in holding this timely open debate to explore the relationship between energy, security and climate in the Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Capelle (Marshall Islands): My island nation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Island developing States.

It is well known to the global community that small island developing States such as the Marshall Islands are already experiencing the earliest ecological impacts of climate change. The fate of my nation is not merely an isolated moral concern, but part of the first chapter of a complex chain of events which will weaken the structure of global peace. In addition to consideration by other forums, the issue of climate change deserves the ongoing attention of this body as a continuing agenda item.

Population relocation due to rising sea levels is already a reality in my region; with limited available

land, this issue will quickly reach critical mass. Certain low-lying island nations, including the Marshall Islands, are at serious risk of becoming an entirely new class of global environmental refugees. The vanishing of entire nations is simply without historical precedent; with an average height of only two metres above sea level, my nation is among the most vulnerable in the world. Faced as we are with the foreseeable loss of our islands, our struggle to redefine our Marshallese identity and homeland will compound existing political and social stresses already prevalent in the Pacific region.

The threat of climate change to security is very much a stark reality, not a theoretical possibility. Recent research indicates that two impacts associated with climate change — ocean acidification and increased water temperatures — are already affecting marine ecosystems. While my nation's land mass and population may be small, our large exclusive economic zone is home to some of the world's richest fisheries. As our coral reefs continue to vanish due to bleaching and our marine ecology is altered by increasing greenhouse gas emissions, we must emphasize to the Security Council the severe and growing threat posed by climate change to our fish stocks — a critical global food source. The diminishment of food supplies in the face of rising populations not only threatens our own national subsistence, but will also intensify international competition for increasingly scarce essential resources. Such future rivalries will create an invitation to global conflict.

We have the opportunity still before us to reduce the threat that climate change poses to regional and global security. While much lip service has been paid to climate change, the global community has too often disregarded the severity and broad reach of its impacts. International action in both developing critical adaptation strategies and in successfully implementing greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals has been a sad and grave disappointment.

My nation realizes the complex challenges and costs that face the global community in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in adapting to climate change impacts. However, the challenges and cost of inaction or of inadequate action will be far greater. Climate change will undermine our regional and global stability, in addition to threatening the very survival of certain small island developing States, such as the Marshall Islands.

The President: I now call on the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Davide (Philippines): I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to address the Council and congratulate the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, now in the midst of a successful leadership of the Council this month.

In view of time constraints, I will deliver a condensed version of my delegation's statement, copies of which will be made available in the Chamber.

At the outset, my delegation associates itself broadly with the views of the Chairs of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China as regards the principle that the competencies of each organ of the United Nations should be respected in order to uphold and maintain the clear delineation of their functions and responsibilities.

My delegation is participating in today's open debate because of the importance of the issues of energy, security and climate change to my country. As to the latter, which is linked to the environment, the Constitution of the Philippines expressly provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology, in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In a landmark decision — Oposa et al. vs Secretary of Environment Factoran — the Supreme Court of the Philippines allowed children, on their own behalf and on behalf of the children of succeeding generations, to sue the Government to enforce that right, thereby enunciating the doctrine of intergenerational responsibility and intergenerational justice.

There is a need to focus on United Nations system-wide attention to those issues. More importantly, there is an extreme urgency for international community-wide prioritization, including at the regional and national levels, to address the challenges posed by energy security and climate change. My delegation therefore hopes that this debate will help raise awareness that will lead to a much-needed international consensus for speedy cooperation and action on energy and climate change.

Mankind's survival on our fragile planet faces a serious threat posed by our fast-deteriorating climate. In the landmark decision I mentioned earlier, the Supreme Court declared that, unless something is done today, humankind may inherit a parched earth

incapable of sustaining life. It is undeniable that inordinate consumption and production patterns, especially in developed countries, have led to the current climatic situation. Let us not, however, be diverted by finger-pointing; instead, we should examine how each of our countries can contribute to the mitigation of climate change, in keeping with the moral doctrine of intergenerational justice, equity, responsibility and burden-sharing.

The abatement of climate change was one of the main issues addressed at the Second East Asia Summit held on 15 January 2007 in the Philippines. In the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security adopted at the Summit, the 10 South-East Asian countries, together with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, agreed to work closely together to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through effective policies and measures.

The environment ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued in November 2006 the Cebu Declaration on Sustainable Development, wherein they expressed their concern over the impact of climate change on ecosystems. They reiterated their commitment to addressing global environmental issues through national and regional cooperation, and called upon the international community to continue to work with ASEAN in that regard.

Climate change is also built into the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2004-2009. The Plan mandates the inclusion of environmental and sustainable development concerns in regional energy policy formulation.

Climate change was also discussed last month during the sixteenth ASEAN and European Union Foreign Ministers Meeting. The ministers noted with particular interest the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security and agreed to promote cooperation on climate change, energy security, sustainable energy and multilateral measures for stable, effective and transparent energy markets.

The Philippines itself has made climate change a priority issue. Recognizing the urgent need to confront the issue and address its adverse effects, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo established, in February this year, the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change. The Task Force is mandated to conduct a rapid assessment of the impact of climate change, ensure strict compliance with air emission standards, combat deforestation and apprehend violators.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes, among other things, that poverty eradication and economic development are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries. Under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, developed countries have to take the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions, such as changes in consumption and production lifestyles, to address climate change. In view of this, the Philippines would like to stress a number of points.

First, all of the risks are of equal significance and are equally applicable to all parts of the world. However, developed countries are better equipped than developing countries to respond and manage the risks, and there is therefore a need for truly global cooperation, with developed countries — given their historical responsibilities — taking the lead.

Secondly, there is a need to further improve our understanding of technological responses in addressing climate change — and particularly its adverse effects — through adaptation, recognizing that developing countries remain most vulnerable to those adverse effects. What is needed is cooperative development of technology, which would ensure that there are no barriers to effective technology transfer and that such technology is adapted to the needs of user countries. Cooperative development of technology would address the needs of both developed and developing countries, all of which are affected by climate change.

Thirdly, all countries should comply with their legally binding obligations under the Framework Convention, in particular on the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology. Greater resources should be provided for concrete adaptation measures.

Fourthly, the pursuit of sustainable development is fundamental for all countries. All countries should thus make climate change considerations an integral part of their development plans.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to point out that the years 2007 to 2009 will be critical in testing the resolve of Member States to take bold and decisive steps to mitigate climate change. As long as the approach involves all stakeholders — Governments,

parliaments, non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, faith communities and, above all, the people themselves — and as long as there is the determination and political will to make and fulfil commitments, we will be able to save mankind and make this planet a beautiful place to live in.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having including this public debate in the Council's April programme of work. The issues of security, energy and climate change have usually been dealt with separately. However, a comprehensive analysis of the linkages between those subjects must be undertaken if we are to forge a global understanding and formulate policies that allow us to confront the threat posed to international peace and stability. The United Nations system, as it is a reflection of the will of Member States, is the proper forum for the discussion of these challenges confronting the international community.

The development and well-being of all nations can be guaranteed only if well-founded measures are taken in a multilateral and concerted manner in the relevant forums. Throughout history, energy has been a strategic resource for human progress. The use of fossil fuels, including coal, as the principal sources of energy has allowed us to increase our capacity for development. However, today we know that it also endangers our common future. The most recent scientific consensus confirms that a significant number of natural systems have been affected by climate change and that global warming has undoubtedly had an influence on physical and biological systems. Climate change represents a serious and growing threat to the sustainable development and life of the planet. Its impact will have direct repercussions on energy supply and demand.

With regard to the issue of supply, climate change would result in a shortage of natural resources, since there would be a reduction in the quality and quantity of water available for human consumption, agriculture and electric energy generation, as well as in the amount of arable land, along with a deterioration in biodiversity and bioenergy in most of the tropics.

Furthermore, such a trend would coincide with a historic decline in the availability of fossil fuels and an increase in the difficulty of gaining access to them. That could lead to an increase in the number of conflicts in unstable areas as a result of the rush to gain access to available reserves. That would create a geopolitical environment shaped by the availability of alternative sources of energy and by the capacity to access appropriate technologies for their use.

Likewise, the envisioned impact of climate change would put at risk the existing oil and electrical industry infrastructure. Failing to factor the climatic variable into energy management in the future would reduce our ability to mitigate and adapt to the phenomenon in the years to come.

With regard to demand, climate change would alter our energy requirements and patterns of production and consumption of various goods and services, leading to distortions in the productive sectors, with a consequent impact on the global economy. Such considerations make clear the need to adapt climate change models and scenarios to future socio-economic and energy requirements.

Moreover, current challenges require us to redouble our efforts to reduce reliance on coal in the global economy. According to current estimates, by 2030 global energy consumption will have increased by more than 50 per cent from today's levels. To satisfy such increased needs while maintaining global security, we must move to a sustainable energy base that includes a growing share of renewable energy sources and promote the development of cleaner and more efficient energy technologies.

Furthermore, as has been said, climate change would continue to intensify extreme weather phenomena — cyclones, hurricanes, heat waves and droughts — creating humanitarian emergencies in many of our countries and increasing the human and economic costs associated with them.

The increase in the global population, which by mid-century will stabilize at almost 9 billion, will aggravate the current situation of poverty in which one third of humanity lives, while also increasing pressure on the biosphere and its capacity for biomass renewal and environmental services.

The spread of poverty and inequality, if not reversed, will inevitably lead to more social conflicts and to migratory pressures that are more pronounced than those we know today. Such migration will be from

the zones of the planet that are the poorest and the most affected by climate change towards the most developed areas, with the resulting tensions and risks for millions of people living in conditions of extreme vulnerability.

There will be no genuine security if we do not promote common solutions to the challenges we face on energy and climate change. It will not be possible to avoid the economic and human costs of the adverse effects of global warming or its potential impact in the form of conflicts of a new nature. The urgency of the situation demands increased international cooperation on the formation of a new political consensus on a coordinated response to the inherent challenges to global security.

Today's meeting constitutes a valuable exercise that undoubtedly contributes to generating increased awareness and a comprehensive vision of the threats that could appear if the international community does not act in a timely manner. States and international and regional organizations must be able to shoulder their responsibilities in their respective spheres. The Government of Mexico has taken the institutional decisions necessary to confront the consequences of climate change and to fulfil the international obligations it has undertaken.

However, in our deliberations, we must be clear about the role that the various institutions of the United Nations system should play. When identifying the risks in the three areas under consideration — energy, security and climate — it is also appropriate to identify the competent forums and bodies that should deal with them. We should not forget that, when it comes to energy, the international community lacks an organization in which all States can reconcile their divergent interests.

In the Mexican delegation's view, although the threats under review are urgent, the possibility of conferring on the Security Council the responsibility to adopt preventive measures that are the province of the specialized forums and other entities, would confuse the content and scope of the duties adopted under the various international legal instruments to which we are signatories, while also eroding the Council's efficiency regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. In any case, the action of the Security Council could be oriented towards buttressing the call for the fulfilment of the political commitment that each Member State has assumed on this matter, and towards ensuring that the organs and other entities of the system are mobilized with greater determination.

In the present United Nations reform process, we have agreed on the objective of ensuring the coherence of actions taken within the Organization. Consistent with that spirit, we should strengthen the operation of the bodies of the system that affect or could affect these matters, such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the conferences of States parties to the relevant international conventions and other instruments and mechanisms. The delegation of Mexico is prepared to make a contribution in that regard.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Brazil, to whom I have pleasure in giving the floor.

Mr. Tarragô (Brazil): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the views expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77 earlier in this meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the United Kingdom's initiative to convene an open debate in the Security Council to examine the interrelationships among energy, security and climate.

Climate change is an extremely important issue with multiple dimensions. However, utmost caution must be exercised in establishing links between conflicts and the utilization of natural resources or the evolution of climate on our planet. To determine whether any particular environmental phenomenon represents a threat to international peace and security remains a very complex task. Not only should conflicts not be traced back to a single cause, but the matter is also invariably loaded with many political connotations that might impair an objective analysis.

My delegation considers that there is a more relevant, stronger link between climate change and development as opposed to security. Droughts or floods can ravage the economies of many countries, especially in the developing world, and can aggravate poverty and underdevelopment. But the effects of climatic phenomena per se do not necessarily result in conflicts.

The social and economic consequences of extreme events related to climate change may arguably impact international security. Should the countries listed in annex I of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which are

historically responsible for global warming, not fulfil their commitments regarding the reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases in a timely manner, scientists have agreed that there is a high probability that the world climate will be seriously affected, thereby becoming another factor of social and economic instability in many areas of the world.

My Government firmly supports the strengthening of the international regime on climate change, that is, the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. We remain convinced that the negotiating process should continue to take place exclusively in the context of the international regime and that it should be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. That principle — according to which the contribution one country can make to the solution of the problem must be proportional to its contribution to the creation of that problem — is of vital importance for equitable and balanced international cooperation among countries.

The global nature of climate change and its multiple dimensions suggest that any relevant international debate on the issue should take place at a forum of universal representation, such as the General Assembly. The increasing importance of issues related to world climate would warrant serious consideration of the possibility of convening a special session of the General Assembly to discuss the matter.

The debate at the United Nations should not seek to be a substitute for negotiations undertaken in the context of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. It may nonetheless add to the political perspective on the debate. It could also serve to underline such issues as the recognition of the historical responsibility for the accumulation of greenhouse gases and the funding of adaptation measures.

The strategic nature of issues related to climate change and energy requires stronger and more effective cooperation frameworks that recognize the role of developing countries in the search for solutions that take into account the challenges of global warming while contributing to economic growth and social justice.

My Government favours diversification of energy sources, both as a way to provide new development prospects and new sources of income for many developing countries and as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We recognize the strategic importance of renewable energy as a driver of sustainable development. Renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, can play a major role in the world's energy matrix. We are indeed convinced that biofuels can help to address four important challenges of our century: energy supply; environmental sustainability; employment and income generation in rural areas; and technological development.

In conclusion, the delegation of Brazil recognizes the importance of the international debate on climate change and energy, with special emphasis on renewable energies. The General Assembly would provide the appropriate venue for addressing these issues in a comprehensive manner and with the participation of all Member States.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of India, to whom I have the pleasure of giving the floor.

Mr. Sen (India): Please, Madam, accept our warmest congratulations to a fellow Commonwealth country on holding the presidency of the Council and our appreciation of the manner in which your delegation is conducting the proceedings.

Climate change issues loom large in today's global environment agenda. The international community needs to be vigilant about moves that would, so to speak, make global warming cool again.

We have read with interest and attention the United Kingdom concept paper on energy, security and climate (S/2007/186, annex). We must confess, with all respect, that we have some major conceptual difficulties. We of course know the obvious: climate change is not a threat in the context of Article 39 of the Charter; nor can we contemplate Article-41 measures. High per capita carbon emitters are in debt to those with low per capita carbon emissions because they are exploiting much more than their share of the environmental space: space in the carbon sink that does not belong to them. An international economic system that has historically been based on externalizing the consequences of pollution is both unjust and impracticable. The main responsibility to take action to reduce the threat of climate change rests with the developed countries, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In this topsy-turvy world, just as the Swiss linear formula in the World Trade Organization demands more than full reciprocity from developing countries, so also a careful reading of the Stern report on the economics of climate change suggests that between now and 2050, all the greenhouse gas abatements proposed would take place in developing countries, with developed countries taking credit for greenhouse gas reductions effected solely by commercial investments, with the increased cost of the energy service being borne by the developing countries and Clean Development Mechanism-type transfers of credits. This would negate the present global compact on climate change, affect growth in developing countries and increase insecurity.

The Stern report has been read with interest in India. It cites Richard Nordhaus extensively. Neither Nordhaus nor Professor Stern have overcome the uncertainty and difficulty of calibrating catastrophic scenarios. In fact, strong uncertainty is ignored. The result is thus to present a political argument as the outcome of an objective scientific modelling process. Nordhaus himself has concluded that the Stern review is a political document. That this objection applies equally to Nordhaus's work only makes it more telling. These catastrophic scenarios therefore cannot be treated as threshold events that are known in the real meaning of the word. Hence, their possible consequences in terms of border disputes, migration, energy supplies, societal stress and the like can hardly be discussed in any meaningful manner.

In marked contrast, a more immediate and quantifiable threat is from possible conflicts arising out of inadequate resources for development and poverty eradication, as well as out of competition for energy. By mitigating the potential for conflict, poverty eradication has positive implications for global peace and security. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries also has a potentially significant positive impact on security, by moderating the impetus for privileged access to energy markets. Efforts to impose greenhouse gas commitments on developing countries would simply have an adverse impact upon the prospects of growth in developing countries. On the other hand, cooperation by developing countries through the carbon market would be conducive to their growth. However, a prerequisite for greenhouse gas abatement in the carbon market is enhanced, legally binding commitments by developed countries.

Considered solely in the context of climate change, poverty alleviation is dependent on climate change adaptation measures. Far more important than an uncertain international security threat is the existential threat to many small island developing States, and it is, therefore, crucial to mobilize resources and technology for immediate adaptation measures there.

To tackle the problems that may lead to conflict, action is required on resource flow, adaptation and technology. Diversion of official development assistance resources from economic growth and poverty eradication in developing countries is not the answer.

Energy is a critical input for development. For developing countries, a rapid increase in energy use per capita is imperative if national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals are to be realized. It is essential that developing countries have the policy space to address their energy needs in the light of their individual circumstances. At a conference in New Delhi earlier this year on Mahatma Gandhi's idea of non-violent resistance, one of our leaders said that to be equitable, economic growth has to be sustainable. To be sustainable, economic growth has, in turn, to be all-inclusive. It is actually *sarvodaya*, or the rise of all. Mahatma Gandhi insisted that such a rise must be respectful of land and in harmony with nature and the Earth's long-term future. For those delegations who are interested, I am appending to my written text some facts on India's implementation of sustainable development.

The appropriate forum for discussing issues relating to climate change is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Insofar as international peace and security are concerned, developed countries reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption will considerably reduce such threats through a reduction in the need for privileged access to energy markets. Nothing in the greenhouse gas profile of developing countries even remotely reflects a threat to international peace and security, yet their taking on greenhouse gas mitigation targets will adversely impact their development — development being the best adaptation to the adverse impact of climate change — and thereby increase insecurity. Conceptually and logically, even if one assumes that catastrophic scenarios are certain, which is not the case, the only context in which to discuss

what can be done about the physical effects of climate change is, again, the Framework Convention. The Security Council does not have the expertise and may not have the mandate: to make an uncertain long-term prospect a security threat amounts to an informal amendment of the Charter. That can be done only through procedures outlined in Articles 108 and 109. While preventing a far-reaching adverse change in the climate of the world we have to promote a far-reaching change for the better in the climate of the Security Council. This too requires procedures under Articles 108 and 109.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of the Republic of Korea, to whom I have the pleasure of giving the floor.

Mr. Choi Young-jin (Republic of Korea): The tragic mass shooting at Virginia Tech yesterday was shocking news to all of us. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims and their families.

Madam President, my delegation appreciates your timely initiative in drawing our attention to the important issue of the security aspects of climate change. I also appreciate your delegation's concept paper (S/2007/186, annex), which concisely shows the potential implications of climate change for international peace and security.

As well documented in the recent reports by Sir Nicolas Stern and by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is increasingly clear that climate catastrophes caused by global warming will gravely affect the entirety of the world if not checked by immediate joint action by all of us. As the globe warms, it is more likely that extreme weather events, including severe floods, droughts and a variety of storms, will intensify in their impact. Floods and heavy downpours associated with rising sea levels will inundate cities and other habitats at or below sea level. Moreover, the newly published report of IPCC Working Group II depicts an acceleration of changes to the ecosystem, in particular in its patterns and diversity.

These phenomena would not only have a devastating impact on global economies at all levels but would also have serious security implications, as the concept paper poignantly recognizes. Among other factors, competition over scarce resources, in particular energy and water, is the most likely factor that might induce or facilitate conflicts among nations.

Another grave security aspect of climate change is that its impact will not be equally distributed. It has been reasonably predicted that the effects of climate change will be more severe in unstable States and among poorer, more vulnerable populations. The small island developing States might be on the front lines of these effects, which could produce receding coastlines and the possible future submergence of entire land masses.

Understanding this security dimension of climate change should therefore bring us together in tackling this global issue urgently and collectively. Climate change certainly demands fundamental rethinking in many policy areas, as well as in individual ways of living. It forces us to make painful but rational decisions within a limited amount of time. It leads us to answer fundamental questions on how humankind created the problem and what human factors may produce solutions.

We may revisit a classical but still illustrative thesis of "the tragedy of the commons." If we abuse or misuse our public goods — in this case, our planet — our generation as well as future generations will lose them. With a view to escaping that trap, I strongly believe that we should explore common solutions based on enlightened national interests instead of being bound by the narrow and immediate concerns of each country. At the level of the individual living within national borders, we have learned that enlightened self-interest, which balances individual needs with the common good, best serves each citizen in the long term.

In the same vein, it is time for us to learn and accept the same logic at the level of the global village. As our era of globalization ushers in a new set of transnational problems, of which climate change is a prime case, traditional national interests may need to expand to encompass enlightened national interest — the interests of each nation in tune with a global perspective. Once nations adopt enlightened national interest, a corollary leadership by example may also be required as another guiding principle. We must mobilize our powers of reasoning and abstract thought, which are unique to humankind. Those new concepts may best ensure long-term national interests by enabling us to better respond to global problems.

I hope that today's debate will jump-start our search for wise solutions to this far-reaching problem, and lead to meaningful progress towards a breakthrough at the Bali conference in December 2007.

The President: The next speaker on the list is the representative of Norway, to whom I have the pleasure of giving the floor.

Mr. Løvald (Norway): Let me start by thanking the United Kingdom for providing a very useful and timely paper as the point of departure for our debate here today.

The General Assembly stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome that "We recognize that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe" (*resolution 60/1, para. 51*). The Heads of State and Government went on to

> "acknowledge that we are living in an interdependent and global world and that many of today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and must be tackled at the global, regional and national levels in accordance with the Charter and international law." (*ibid., para. 71*)

Against that background, we welcome the fact that for the first time the Security Council is addressing the security aspects of climate change. While climate change and energy are broad issues that are also being addressed in other United Nations forums, there is no doubt that the implications of climate change also pose a number of threats to our collective security. The many powerful messages delivered here today clearly testify to that.

The subject of the interlinkages between environmental sustainability and peace and security was put on the international agenda in 2004, when Wangari Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to counter environmental degradation. Today, climate change is our main environmental challenge. But it is a threat that reaches far beyond the environment. It affects economic development, threatens the livelihood and resource base of whole societies and affects health and the spread of infectious diseases. It is likely to reduce the world's food security through droughts and unstable weather conditions. Through rising sea levels it endangers the very ground on which nearly half of the world's population lives. And it is likely to lead to increased humanitarian emergencies. For all those reasons climate change also represents a security threat that needs to be considered and addressed.

Climate change, as part of the peace and security agenda, should and must be addressed by the Security Council. The Council could become less effective in preventing and resolving conflict if it was to ignore the environmental dimension when analyzing the underlying causes of conflicts. To be able to address this issue effectively, the Council needs to base its decisions on facts and specific knowledge. We need to fill the current knowledge gap on how climate change and changing energy needs may impact on specific conflict situations on the Council's agenda. Such improved knowledge will help prevent and deal more effectively with future conflicts.

Such knowledge may also prove vital in preparing a coherent response to the risks of climate change among the United Nations membership and across the United Nations organizations. We would suggest that the Department of Political Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations institutions, be requested to look into how the current knowledge base on the interlinkages between climate change and security could be improved and made more readily available. I was very pleased, therefore, to hear this morning that the Secretary-General has so clearly committed himself to assisting in that important task.

Climate change is truly global a problem that can be solved only through global cooperation and joint action. It is therefore essential to reach a greatly improved and broader agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible. Norway supports all efforts to focus attention on the issue of climate change at the highest political level. While the Security Council should address the implications of climate change for the maintenance of international peace and security, the broader aspects of climate change are clearly an issue for the General Assembly. In that regard, we find the idea of a high-level meeting on climate change in the General Assembly in September this year interesting, and we encourage the Secretary-General and Member States to pursue that possibility.

The President: The next speaker on the list is the representative of Micronesia (the Federated States of). I have pleasure in giving him the floor.

Mr. Lippwe (Micronesia (Federated States of)): At the outset, the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia associates itself with the statement made earlier today by the representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The Federated States of Micronesia would first like to thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to bring its views on climate security to the Council. The Federated States of Micronesia welcomes the fact that the Security Council today takes the important first step to recognize its role in addressing climate security. Indeed, for the Federated States of Micronesia and other small island developing States, climate change has been a serious security problem for quite some time. So by necessity, my delegation is speaking today, as it has been constantly and consistently on many occasions elsewhere, about the security threat climate change poses to our very existence as a country and as a people.

As the climate change debate takes place in this Council for the first time, members of the United Nations have the luxury of a mixed political, scientific and intellectual debate over its implications and even on the appropriateness to of its being up by this Council. But from the viewpoint of an islander living on island atolls merely a few metres above sea level, global climate change is a security threat that must be confronted urgently by the Council, in terms of our cultural and geographic mortality. The circumstances that confront us today because of global climate change are unprecedented and threaten to render meaningless all apparent social and economic achievements and development in all spheres of our societies.

The international community faces an unprecedented threat from climate change, with a wide range of possible impacts that can potentially cause instability in all regions of the world. In the Pacific, which is highly vulnerable to environmental changes, the results are severe and widespread. In my own country, Micronesia, within the past three months, from January to March, islands in the state of Chuuk have experienced unusually high tides that have caused damage to food crops, sea walls and homes, and have displaced residents, prompting the declaration of a state of emergency in the affected areas. The truth is that climate change is a security threat — and a threat to every aspect of life on Pacific islands.

Climate change will create a set of problems in the Pacific region. Rising sea levels will change coastlines and quite likely submerge entire islands. In addition to the irreversible loss of territory of sovereign States, changes in geography could lead to disputes over exclusive economic zones. Saltwater intrusion has already destroyed crops in islands throughout the region. Damaged fish stocks would be devastating to the livelihood of regional residents. The frequency of tropical storms will increase. As a result, environmental refugees will put additional strain on our small and vulnerable economies.

The Council is charged with maintaining international peace and security. Thus, it should first formally recognize that climate change is a threat falling within its mandate. It should then have the Secretary-General identify regions at risk and the potential impact on international peace and security, as well as appropriate responses, in line with Article 99 of the Charter. Finally, the Council should remain seized of the matter, since climate change is evolving.

Mr. Limeres (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Paragraph 9 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document recognizes that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The living conditions of the world's population may be affected significantly unless urgent measures of mitigation and adaptation to climate change are adopted. Agriculture and food production could change and pose a great risk for political and social stability. Densely populated geographic areas could be flooded due to a rise in sea level, forcing massive displacement of large segments of the population. Extreme weather phenomena could cause severe floods and droughts, causing loss of life and damage to the health and property of the population. The hydrologic cycle and, consequently, the availability of drinking water could also be negatively affected.

The emission of greenhouse gases, which has been growing since the industrial revolution and which is generated principally by the use of fossil fuels, is directly connected to the development and spread of unsustainable production and consumption patterns, the modification of which requires a change in lifestyles, as was agreed in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Neither contributions to the current levels of carbon emissions nor the level of risk from climate change are equally shared among countries. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has clearly warned that the harmful effects of climate change would be more intense in developing countries — precisely those that have lower per capita levels of carbon dioxide

emissions and fewer resources to face the consequences of climate change. Those who have contributed the least to the current climate change are the ones who will suffer its consequences most severely.

Security Council resolution 1625 (2005) reaffirmed the need to adopt a broad strategy of conflict prevention that addresses the root causes of armed conflict and political and social crises in a comprehensive manner, including by promoting, inter alia, sustainable development and poverty eradication. These issues should not be analysed in an isolated way, but rather in their interrelation. The competence to substantively address the issues of climate change, energy, agriculture, the supply of drinking water and the habitat of endangered populations undoubtedly belongs within our Organization: to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and specialized agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and the regional development banks, among others.

Adequate and fluid cooperation, within the terms established by the Charter, among the various organs, the programmes and specialized agencies of the Organization is necessary to face situations that could potentially affect security and whose origin lies in the extreme consequences of climate change. In our view, this must not lead, under any circumstances, to the question of climate change being incorporated into the agenda of the Security Council.

The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has mobilized world public opinion, and has brought new topicality to the subject, especially for countries that have systematically failed to recognize that the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere generates climate change. Nonetheless, this recognition — and even the Council's attention to the subject — may be arriving too late, when years of patterns of energy production and consumption, especially in developed countries, have caused significant damage in the natural balance of our climate system and when we see the consequences of these actions coming menacingly close.

There are actions that the international community could take to mitigate the phenomenon — as much as still possible — and to effectively help adapt to the consequences of a process that, since it is already under way, cannot be halted or neutralized, and thus restored to the previous situation. Such actions can be found in the commitments undertaken for international cooperation to provide assistance to developing countries so that they can meet the needs of adaptation to climate change.

In both the 1992 Rio Declaration and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of the same year, the international community adopted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, under which industrialized countries would commit themselves to leading the mitigation actions and thus take on the great responsibility to avert the most pessimistic predictions of the impact of climate change on peace and security.

The patterns of production and consumption, especially of per capita energy, in those countries determine the alarming current level of carbon emissions in the atmosphere. Those countries, which have contributed in great measure to the grave situation of the climate system, are the ones that possess the best and more abundant material and technical resources to face the consequences of climate change.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Cuba, and I have the pleasure of giving her the floor.

Mrs. Núñez Mordoche (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Madam President, we feel obliged to express at the outset our concern at the lack of transparency in the preparation of the list of speakers for this open debate. The Cuban delegation has evidence that some of the delegations that spoke earlier presented their formal request for inclusion on the list of speakers after Cuba did so, on 13 April last, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, which has 118 member countries. We believe that this is yet another example of the lack of transparency that characterizes the work of the Security Council and of the need for an urgent and profound reform of this organ, including reform of its working methods.

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, and on behalf of all its member States, I have the honour to convey the Movement's position with regard

the decision of the Council to hold an open debate on the relationship between energy, security and climate.

The Movement expressed its position on this issue in a letter dated 12 April 2007 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General. That letter was circulated as an official document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2007/203.

The Non-Aligned Movement once again underscores the need for States Members of the United Nations fully to respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the United Nations, in particular those of the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among those organs in the framework of their respective Charter-based functions and powers.

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its concern regarding the continued and increasing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other organs through its consideration of issues that traditionally fall within their competence.

The Non-Aligned Movement also notes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the appropriate forum for considering the risks associated with and actions required to address the issue of climate change, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention.

According to Article 24 of the Charter, which defines the Security Council's functions and powers, the Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council must fully abide by all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions, which make clear its relationship with the latter and with other principal organs.

In closing, the Movement would like to stress that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is indispensable in order to enable the United Nations to continue to be relevant and capable of meeting existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Singapore.

Mr. Menon (Singapore): Let me begin by stating the obvious. There is some discomfort about the venue and nature of today's debate. But let me also state what is equally obvious to all except those who refuse to see reality. Climate change is the main global environmental challenge. There is general agreement among scientists that the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations is causing global warming. We are witnessing rising sea levels and extreme weather. We are seeing the extinction of species. Those effects are worldwide and potentially devastating as they increase in severity.

Given the paucity of their resources, developing countries will be the hardest hit. For some, their very survival is at stake. For example, entire island nations might cease to exist as a result of rising sea levels. But it is not only the poor who will suffer. If climate change causes socio-economic conditions within developing countries to deteriorate, millions of people will be compelled to seek refuge in developed countries. Even poverty and socio-political dislocation are globalized these days. I believe that there is a broad consensus that we must act to arrest that for which we ourselves are responsible. Many of the problems caused by climate change can be tackled only if we work together.

Let us view our procedural disagreements against that backdrop. Intuitively, there may be a nexus between environmental degradation from climate change and increased conflict over limited resources made even scarcer. Land, water, food and minerals have often been variables in that complex equation leading to conflict. It is notoriously hard to quantify exactly the role of each variable in that respect. People have been studying conflicts for centuries without arriving at a perfect formula for predicting them. But while we should recognize the complexity of the issue, we should not lose sight of the simple idea that people often fight over tangible things.

While it may be difficult to quantify the relationship between climate change and international peace and security, there should be no doubt that climate change is an immediate global challenge that has trans-boundary, multifaceted effects. There will be serious implications as concerns politics, socio-economics, geography, security and the fundamental way in which we interact with nature and with each other. Given that complexity, can we realistically limit ourselves to finding one correct forum to discuss all

aspects of this problem? Or should we use all our resources to try to understand the issue and all opportunities and forums to explore the problem from various perspectives? Each piece of the puzzle could help us see the bigger picture. We would like to view today's open debate in the Security Council in that light. At the very least, these discussions will keep international focus on the problems associated with climate change.

We are not advocating that the Security Council play the key role with respect to climate change. But neither can we deny the Security Council some sort of role, because it seems obvious to all but the wilfully blind that climate change must, if not now, eventually have some impact on international peace and security. The Council is one player in the broader debate on the issue. Of course, the Council is not the only or the main player. With its broader membership and mandate, the General Assembly is clearly another body that must discuss this issue. The General Assembly already has existing mechanisms to deal with this. There are also other forums such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic and Social Council. The upcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development is expected to play a key role in discussing the problem of climate change. All those forums must continue to address the issue and its environmental, social and economic effects on the world, particularly in those countries most at risk.

Following this open debate, let us not put aside the issue. We should see this as just one small step in a longer march. Given the magnitude and urgency of the problem, the General Assembly should consider convening a high-level event or a special session dedicated to the issue of climate change. There is no point in sitting around and complaining that the Security Council is encroaching onto areas that should be dealt with by the General Assembly. The Assembly should rise to the challenge and do something about this global issue. A high-level event or a special session of the General Assembly could give an added push to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Bali at the end of the year. Ultimately, dealing decisively with climate change comes down to political will — the political will to sign the relevant treaties and protocols, the political will to make compromises, and the political will to make sacrifices for the longer term.

We now know that what we have done in the past century has caused much damage to our environment and to the world. We also know that unless we take immediate steps to rectify matters, the situation will get progressively worse in the coming decades. Every long journey begins with a first step. Hopefully, today's open debate will inspire us to take the next step of dealing with this global issue in a broader setting involving the entire United Nations membership. James Freeman Clarke once said that a politician thinks of the next election, a statesman, of the next generation. Let us all be statesmen. Let us put aside our differences and tackle this issue. That will be our legacy.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Mr. President, we are grateful to you personally and to your delegation for having launched this initiative as well as for having prepared a very useful note in order to provide guidance for this debate. The concept of international peace and security, as provided for under the Charter, has been subject to a broadening interpretation over the past few years, and today's debate constitutes a further step in that evolution.

We agree with those who have pointed to the competence of other bodies in the area under discussion today, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development and, of course, the General Assembly. At the same time, climate change and energy issues certainly have the potential of posing a threat to international peace and security. This debate is therefore an appropriate way to address a potential future threat and a good way for the Council to adopt preventative approaches, wherever possible.

It is quite clear that environmental issues already have, in many cases, at least strong corollary effects on situations that threaten peace and security. Several ongoing conflicts are, among other factors, driven, for example, by the scarcity of water resources, and all figures available indicate that this particular issue will be dramatically exacerbated in the near future, since access to clean water will significantly decrease globally over the next few years. Other issues are mass displacement and migration due to adverse environmental conditions, food shortages and lack of cultivable land.

It would appear that all existing and potential threats from environmental damage come together in

the overarching threat posed by climate change. While that threat was recognized quite some time ago, the collective international response has nevertheless not been very swift and far from adequate. We strongly welcome the personal commitment of the Secretary-General to make the issue of climate change one of his priorities, and we also welcome current efforts to address the threat in a more effective way beyond the year 2012 and beyond the terms of the Kyoto Protocol. There is barely an issue on which multilateral action is more obviously needed and, indeed, indispensable.

It will, of course, not be this Council that will make a decision on the collective response to climate change. However, the Council, as the most prestigious United Nations body, can make a significant contribution both by promoting a full understanding of the nature of the threat and by addressing some of its elements on an ad hoc basis and as part of situations that threaten peace and security.

We understand that this meeting will not result in a formal outcome. That is in keeping with the character of this debate, the main goal of which is to raise awareness and to promote a shared understanding of the risks we are facing. Nevertheless, we hope that this event will positively affect the manner in which the Council conducts its work in the future. In making its decisions and designing a response to situations that threaten international peace and security, the Council must take into account all relevant factors. Environmental factors have clearly been neglected in the past, even in cases in which they are of quite obvious relevance. There is much room for improvement there. In order to do so, the Council could increasingly resort to the relevant expertise on those matters which is available in the United Nations system, but not necessarily in those parts of the Secretariat that traditionally service the Security Council. Formal and informal briefings from the competent United Nations agencies and programmes could greatly assist the Council in its efforts to make more informed decisions. The Council could also consider setting up a special entity providing such expertise or simply include it in its capacity in the area of conflict prevention.

In that context, we welcome the commitment and willingness shown by the Secretary-General this morning, as well as the proposals made, among others, by the delegation of Norway this afternoon.

The President: I now call on the representative of Bolivia.

Ms. Terrazas Ontiveros (Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at seeing you, Sir, preside over this exploratory debate on the relationship between energy, security and climate, concerning which, as recognized by its proponents, "it is for other United Nations bodies... to pursue other aspects of climate change that are not within the mandate of the Security Council" (*S/2007/186, para. 3*).

Bolivia endorses the statements of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The 1994 *Human Development Report* introduced the idea of human security with the objective, perhaps, of going beyond the concept of national security to adopt a broader vision of security from the perspective of the lives of individuals.

National security concerns currently continue to dominate international agendas, while violent conflict, terrorist threats, the danger represented by weapons of mass destruction, the lack of significant progress on disarmament and non-proliferation, and the trade and use of illicit small arms and light weapons certainly remain major challenges to our collective security.

We know that peace and security, development and human rights are intimately linked to one another and that, in this century, the serious water crisis has become a potential factor in national and international conflicts, requiring an urgent and coordinated response on the part of the international community. Climate change is transforming the nature of water insecurity, and global warming has begun to change the hydrological patterns that determine water's already limited availability.

Climate change has ceased to be a threat of the future and can be felt ever more strongly and clearly in many developing countries, where it has the exacerbating effect of diminishing human development achievements. International water tables cover approximately half the planet. More than 30 countries are located entirely in areas of cross-border water basins. Some 145 States, home to 90 per cent of the world's population, are located on shared basins. The African continent is the clearest example of the realities of the interdependency caused by water.

Cross-border water systems create links between States by establishing conditions conducive to the pooling of environmental resources, which affect opportunities for sustenance and the potential for conflict or cooperation. The ecological impact of the unregulated extraction of water from underground or from aquifers entails additional problems and challenges with respect to political relations among States.

It is undeniable that, for a great many developing countries, the management of cross-border waters, including salt water, has acquired increasing importance in their bilateral, regional and multilateral relations. As competition for water steadily grows, it has consequences for their development and effective integration into the currents of progress.

Today, privation of the right to clean water not only has the potential for similar or greater destructiveness than that of armed conflict, but is wiping out human potential on a massive scale. According to reports issued by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, a child dies every 15 seconds due in large part to the lack of access to clean water and to substandard basic sanitation. The situation is exacerbated by demographic growth, industrial development and vastly increased agricultural requirements. In the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, the heads of State and Government recognized that "that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing" (*General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 9*).

We must also recall that water, like air, is an essential element of life, as well as of economic and social development. It is also crucial to achieving at least three of the Millennium Development Goals, since it is indispensable to agriculture and the preparation of food, which are critical factors in the elimination of hunger and poverty, the reduction of infant mortality and the improvement of maternal health. In rural areas, where the problem is aggravated by seasonal changes, many communities and regions remain without water for long periods of time, requiring them to resort to unsafe market sources. In the 1990s, privatization was broadly favoured as an alternative to public supply. Experiences have been mixed, including "water wars" that have demonstrated that private provision of water is no magic formula.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has declared that "The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses" (*E/2003/22, annex IV, para. 2*). That is the basis of water security and sets out the parameters for that human right — a right that is not enjoyed by approximately 1.1 billion people. That situation must be addressed, because clean water is a human right that cannot be denied to anyone. It is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of other human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the provisions of other international relevant instruments.

There are seven years to go before 2015 — the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals — yet the international response to the threat to water security represented by climate change has been inadequate. Multilateral efforts have concentrated on mitigating the effects of climate change in the future, by which time it may already be too late.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Cape Verde.

Mrs. Lima da Veiga (Cape Verde): The recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change could not be more eloquent about the risks and challenges for the sustainability of development efforts at the national, regional and international levels and for the very survival of mankind.

Indeed, if the international community fails to deal with the issues of energy and climate change seriously and with a sense of urgency, those challenges could, in the long term, constitute potential threats to global economic and social stability and, hence, to global security.

Although they contribute least to air and atmospheric pollution and climate change, small island developing States and least developed countries are the most vulnerable to climate change and its adverse impacts. Owing to the rapid pace at which those phenomena are occurring, the irreversibility of the process might be unavoidable for some of those countries. What is more, certain small island developing States face the serious risk of disappearing from the map.

Also well known is the impact on the future development of Africa, a continent that is recognized as having special needs and that is struggling with

security challenges. Cape Verde is heavily affected by drought and land degradation, as well as by the climate change phenomena that generally affect small island developing States, such as sea-level rise and the salinization of underground water and soil. Being of volcanic origin, Cape Verde is also exposed to potential natural disasters. Its high dependency on fossil fuel imports for its development needs increases its exposure to external shocks.

It is against that background that the Cape Verdean delegation considers that the same grounds that mobilized nations and other stakeholders in Rio, Johannesburg, Montreal and Kyoto should spur more efficient, coherent and ambitious common action to stop the depletion of natural resources and the destruction of the equilibrium of ecosystems.

The international community must build on the momentum created by recent international events on climate change and must act rapidly. We also believe that there should be a focus on the implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments on sustainable development.

In preparation of for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General recently submitted to Member States comprehensive reports and proposals to accelerate the implementation of agreed goals and commitments on the cluster of issues pertaining to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The outcomes of the Citizens of the Earth Paris meeting also offer interesting and innovative approaches and suggestions, which deserve attentive analysis. In our opinion, the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should draw on all of those elements for a forward-looking and action-oriented session.

Since the current debate is taking place in advance of that session and of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Bali next December, we hope that it will contribute to effectively stimulating strong political will and an enabling international environment for a genuine partnership in the implementation process, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Such a partnership must be consistent with the decision taken by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit to act with resolve in tackling all challenges related to sustainable development, including poverty eradication, climate change, energy and their security implications. Only such a partnership can ensure mitigation of the causes and effects of climate change, enhance adaptation, combat air pollution and improve access to energy, promote energy efficiency and sound and cost-effective technologies and, ultimately, reverse the negative trends that have an impact on development efforts.

The global partnership should aim at developing and disseminating technologies for renewable energy and increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix, through a major scaling-up of investments. It should also focus on broader integration of mitigation and adaptation measures in national strategies and in development assistance programmes.

The Cape Verdean delegation also believes that all Member States should fully comply with international conventions on sustainable development, namely, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Those countries that contribute most to greenhouse gas emissions should strongly revise their policies in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. We also urge those that have not yet signed the Protocol to adhere to it. In addition, agreement should be sought by December 2008 on a broad and ambitious post-2012 commitment period.

In conclusion, I wish to express appreciation to the Security Council and to you, Mr. President, for the opportunity given to the Cape Verdean delegation to participate in this debate.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Weisleder (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica welcomes the opportunity provided by this open debate to comment on one of the most urgent issues of our times. I would like first to endorse the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. However, Costa Rica believes that, beyond the issue of the increasing and repeated encroachment of the Security Council on the responsibilities of other organs, the subjects of this debate can, and, indeed, should, be addressed from various perspectives. At the end of the day, the principal aim of the Organization is

the maintenance of international peace and security, and all of its organs must, within their respective mandates, contribute to the achievement of that purpose.

In our view, there is no need for further arguments to prove the undeniable link that exists between energy and the climate on the one hand and, on the other, human security and the preservation of the ecosystems that sustain our existence. We need think only of the flooding of lowlands, the real possibility of the disappearance of island States, the forced displacement of many millions of people and the triggering of conflicts as a result of the deterioration of biophysical systems.

I would like now to speak as a Central American in describing how we are already suffering the effects of climate change and how we want to contribute to our common endeavour. The inhabitants of Mesoamerica have been suffering increasingly over recent years as result of changes in weather patterns and the increased frequency and strength of hurricanes and floods. Year after year, those phenomena have been resulting in increasing loss of life and infrastructure, as well as having an impact on the competitiveness of our economies. Climate change endangers our food security, threatens the economic and social stability of our countries and creates further obstacles to the human development of our peoples. It is the ominous harbinger of further and greater calamities ahead.

In our countries, the increase in intensity and frequency of extreme climate events also reduces the water resources and has an impact on the availability of renewable resources for the generation of electrical energy.

Our national strategy to deal with climate change is based on an ethical principle of internal and external responsibility. Externally, Costa Rica is participating in this debate for the purpose of once again championing a set of policies formulated in relation to the environment, development and security. These policies should be based on the shared principles of sustainable development, international cooperation, solidarity and shared but differentiated responsibilities, all of which are considered in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We must unite all efforts in order to adopt the necessary global actions.

On the internal level, and in addition to those policies that we are supporting collectively, Costa Rica has set itself the goal of being the first country in the developing world to develop a neutral carbon balance. That means arriving at a situation in which the generation of greenhouse gases would be totally compensated for by sustainable compensatory actions.

My country calls for the convening of a high-level session at the start of the next General Assembly session in order to hold an open, participatory and full debate on the issues of climate change and energy in all their aspects.

This is a struggle of sacrifices, firm commitments and sustainable actions. It is not a struggle against anyone; rather, it is a fight against time and for the benefit of humanity.

The President: I will now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Carmon (Israel): Mr. President, allow me, at the outset, to commend you on your leadership of the Council during this month of April and on convening this important debate. Israel believes that the issues relating to energy, security and climate are closely linked and are vital to the promotion and sustainability of peace and security throughout the world.

Energy plays a critical role in our society. Adequate and affordable energy has always been central to economic development. Historically, access to energy resources enabled the shift from agricultural economies to modern industrial and service-based economies. But energy is not merely essential to achieving development goals. It is necessary for basic and decent living.

At the same time, however, energy adversely affects the climate. Vulnerable areas around the world are even more susceptible to these issues. Governments and other players can use the tools in their hands for the benefit of mankind, but these tools can also be misused. There is no doubt that the security of these regions relates directly to, among other things, the commodity of energy resources and their availability. History has shown that competition between States seeking to satisfy energy needs can instigate conflict, particularly in regions where tensions already exist.

It is not only the potential scarcity of oil and gas and other traditional energy resources that can drive conflict. Access to water, food and fertile soil, population movements and border disputes all must be factored in as well. Furthermore, as recent scientific

research shows, these factors are complicated and further threatened by climate change.

The international community must cooperate in researching and developing renewable and alternative energy resources for the betterment of all societies. Mitigation efforts and adaptation to climate change will enable us to work together in synergy to promote sustainable practices. In this regard, Israel looks forward to the coming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and future forums dealing with sustainable development, climate and other related issues.

Moreover, Israel has also shown the viability of cooperation with regard to resources, in particular those that are scarce in our region. As just one example, the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty stipulated terms for cooperative usage of water and other materials from the Jordan River basin. For so many years, water was perceived as a source of tension and conflict. But as shown, water can also be a source of harmony and peace.

As part of the global efforts to address the challenges I have just mentioned, Israel is conducting extensive research and development programmes and is developing the appropriate technologies. Considering the shared nature of energy resource conditions and environmental challenges throughout our region, Israel has planned for additional cooperative programmes and is participating in a regional desalinization centre and a project combating desertification and promoting afforestation. Israel is committed to working with regional and international partners to address these challenges in our region.

Israel believes that by addressing climate and energy issues in appropriate forums, the international community can constrain the effects that these issues may have on peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McKnee (Canada): The hour is late; I shall try to be short. Canada welcomes this opportunity to speak in the debate and would like to thank the United Kingdom for its initiative, which has resulted in this discussion on the very broad implications of climate change, one of the greatest threats facing the world today.

The science of climate change is clear. We must focus our attention on solutions to protect our planet's fragile ecosystems. The impacts of climate change are already being felt — on water availability, biodiversity, food supply, coastal systems and low-lying areas and on public health. All regions could be affected, including in Canada, where traditional ways of life in the north are already being threatened. Poor communities can be especially vulnerable, in particular those concentrated in high-risk areas.

Efforts also are needed to better integrate climate change into the international community's long-term security and humanitarian strategies.

Technology advancement will play a critical role in addressing climate change and in improving energy and global security. The development of new technologies and the wide deployment of both new and existing technologies will be necessary. Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors need to be rapidly accelerated in an effort to advance technology uptake.

The time for action is now. In the weeks ahead, Canada's Government will set out enforceable regulatory targets for greenhouse gas emissions. These targets will place Canada on the pathway to achieving deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Canada also stands ready to work to build a truly global approach to achieve deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions with the full participation of all major emitter countries.

(*spoke in French*)

There must also be greater cooperation to integrate climate change adaptation efforts more effectively into national development policies of the most vulnerable developing nations. These efforts must also be supported by more effective bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance. Working together, we must implement effective strategies to overcome the challenges that climate change presents to sustainable development, human health and the health of the ecosystem, as well as to security.

Finally, addressing climate change is also a matter of good global stewardship and as such deserves our sustained attention and action.

The President: I will now give the floor to the representative of Mauritius.

Mr. Soborun (Mauritius): Mauritius, like many other countries, views climate change as a very serious

global problem that warrants a long-term global commitment and substantive actions. The Rio Conference on Environment and Development awakened us, in time, to the stark, or rather the dark, reality that awaits us if no concrete actions are taken to tackle the problem of global warming. Indeed, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change clearly states that the current high level of global emissions of greenhouse gases and the global nature of climate change call for urgent cooperation among countries in an effective way and an international response in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It is deplorable that the actions taken so far have not been commensurate with the magnitude of the problem; the end result is that we are gradually gliding towards the danger zone — if we are not there already.

The 2006 Human Development Report, published by the United Nations Development Programme, unequivocally states that climate change now poses what may be an unparalleled threat to human development. Sadly, the most severe consequences will be experienced by countries and people who bear little responsibility for the problem. Parts of sub-Saharan Africa are facing crop losses of up to 25 per cent from climate-change-induced weather patterns. Meanwhile, accelerated glacial melt and reduced rainfall threaten major food systems in South Asia.

Following the conclusions of the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released recently, and the Stern review on the economics of climate change, it is no longer possible today to doubt that global warming is accelerating and that human activity is contributing substantially to that acceleration. Consequences of that acceleration, as predicted in the reports, will have devastating effects. Small island developing States (SIDS), though contributing insignificantly to global greenhouse gas emissions, will be among those countries facing the full adverse impacts of climate change.

SIDS and low-lying coastal countries are highly vulnerable to climate change as they face the risks of sea-level rise and severe coastal erosion. The unique features of island ecosystems, including fisheries, coral reefs and mangroves, also face increasing threats from climate change and natural disasters. These have huge implications for our economic sectors, such as tourism and agriculture, as well as for food security and nutrition. Saline intrusion and change in rainfall patterns are seriously affecting our freshwater resourc and agriculture. Adaptation to environmental vulnerabili and climate change is vital for our countries in order achieve the targets of the Millennium Developme Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the Wor Summit on Sustainable Development.

That will necessitate increased assistance at bo the technical and the financial levels. In that regard, w call upon the international community to set up special SIDS fund to enable the development an implementation of adaptation measures, along the lin of the special Least Developed Countries Fund und the Global Environment Facility (GEF) umbrell Furthermore, in order to enable better monitoring climate variations associated with global warming an sea-level rise, there is also a need to set up region climate observation systems to assist SIDS.

Mauritius wishes to underscore the importance the engagement of the international community building partnerships in the development technologies to address the environment predicaments of our fragile ecosystems in an integrate manner, and in the transfer of clean technologies an the building of management capacities for vulnerabili reduction and disaster management.

Small island developing States depend almo entirely on imported fossil fuels for their energ requirements and economic development. Th assistance of developed countries is again solicited exploring and expanding the use of renewable energ including biofuels, and in facilitating the transfer clean and energy-efficient technology with a view reducing greenhouse gas emissions, harnessing th potential of natural resources for energy productio reducing the high cost of importing fuel, ensurin energy security and developing a coherent sustainab energy policy.

Small island developing States rely on globa actions to combat the problems of climate change an sea-level rise. Developed countries, because of the capacity to act first, must take the lead in the figh against climate change. However, it is imperative tha there be broad participation among developed an developing countries emitting massive quantities greenhouse gases, to push for innovation in th development and employment of low-carbo technologies, the continued and expanded use market-based instruments and adaptation measures.

While acknowledging the tremendous work done by the various international environmental organizations, we support the view that there is the need for a more coherent approach if we want to be effective in combating problems related to climate change. In that context, we welcome the outcome of the Paris Conference for Global Ecological Governance, which called for the creation of a United Nations environment organization. I should also like to add that the 23rd meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission, which was held in Port Louis on 3 April 2007 under the chairmanship of Mauritius, also discussed the proposed United Nations environment organization.

To conclude, I should like to add that we all have to do our fair share in the creation of a safer and cleaner environment for generations yet unborn.

The President: I now give floor to the representative of Comoros.

Mr. Aboud (Comoros) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first of all, on behalf of my Government, to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this meeting, the main objective of which is to consider the relationship between energy, security and climate. We are meeting here today to discuss and study together threats caused by climate change and their impact on security, and to resolutely commit our countries to finding viable solutions.

However, we all know how difficult those solutions are to attain, given the problems that some of our countries are facing, because of our status as both least developed countries and small island developing States. However, we must quickly come up with sustainable solutions, because we are talking about saving succeeding generations. But it must be said that succeeding generations are threatened today by the negative impact of human activities on the global climate. The predicted consequences are already to be seen in several regions, particularly in the small island developing States. Climatic events which used to be exceptional or limited to certain regions have now spread throughout the world. Droughts, torrential rainfall, flooding and cyclones now occur at a global level, resulting in sea-level rise, lack of water, famine, loss of life and material damage. Such is the lot of the least developed and most vulnerable States, such as our small island States.

In the case of the Comoros, that is shown by the destruction of coastal areas, where more than about 80 per cent of our economic and human activities take place — as is the case for other small island States. The Comoros is already witnessing great population movement to areas that are deemed to be more favourable, in particular to the Comorian island of Mayotte. In order to travel within their country to Mayotte, Comorians of the three other islands cross the sea under unimaginable conditions. These population movements are due to the loss of agricultural land, soil degradation and increased rural poverty. Such displacements of people to other areas will increase along with the phenomena related to climate change.

At the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, a group of young people delivered a message of alarm and despair to the international community when they said, "Remember we cannot buy another planet". The survival of each of our countries depends on the preservation of our natural resources, and on making the best of them.

Comoros does not cause greenhouse gas emissions, but climate change increases the difficulties for the sustainable development of our country, which is already fragile. The challenge facing the Comoros is to remain a carbon sink, particularly through the promotion of new and renewable energy, to meet the future needs for our sustainable development. We fully support the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We also support the principle according to which one must anticipate phenomena linked to climate change and prepare for them. However, such efforts require technical and financial support. Adapting to the potential impact of climate change is a new area, where urgent needs are now emerging, and the challenge of international cooperation is to help small island developing countries to confront those challenges.

My country would like to recall that the responsibility of the Security Council is the maintenance of international peace and security, as stipulated in the Charter of our universal Organization. Moreover, other questions, including those relating to economic and social development, are entrusted by the Charter to the Economic and Social Council.

The questions of energy and climate change are vital to sustainable development. Responsibilities in the area of sustainable development are incumbent upon the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and on their subsidiary bodies, particularly the Commission on Sustainable

Development and the United Nations Development Programme. Climate change is covered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that in coming days, my country's Parliament will be ratifying the Kyoto Protocol.

It is time to act now. Let us act together to make the international community aware of the vulnerability of the small island States, which are the first to suffer the negative consequences of climate change. Tough lessons must be learned, because everyone's future is at stake now.

(*spoke in English*)

To conclude, I will cite an anecdote. A first-class passenger arrived late at the airport. He went to the counter and said, "Sir, my flight is leaving in a few minutes". The person at the counter looked at him and replied, "Sir, the passengers in first class and economy class have left together on the same flight."

We are all passengers on the same flight. Those from rich countries, poor countries or island States should not wait until the last minute to catch the flight. We should act now. Otherwise, those beautiful islands will disappear forever.

The President: We have reached the end of the list. May I, on behalf of my Minister, thank everyone who has spoken and taken part in this debate. I believe 55 participants is a record for a debate of this nature. I welcome in particular the large number of non-Council members — by definition, 40 — who spoke in this debate, many of them members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77.

In aggregate, I think we have brought out the complexity of the issue, the challenge that climate change represents for all of us and the need for us to tackle, in a myriad of different ways and places, the many aspects of the problem and to try to mitigate the threats, because it is by mitigating the threats that the role of the Security Council hopefully becomes redundant.

No doubt, we will all want to reflect carefully on what we have discussed and heard today. May I end by extending a warm thank-you to everybody.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.